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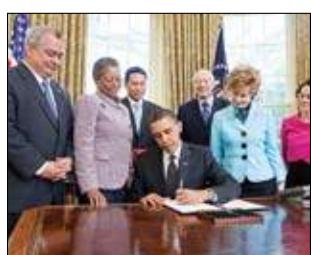


## OPINION METER

This week's poll:  
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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### IGIA Order

President Obama signs an executive order increasing White House involvement in the IGIA.

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### Pineapple Harvest

People should be seeing pineapples of the local Saipan variety in stores and markets very soon.

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### King Divorced

Larry King has filed for divorce from his seventh wife.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28



A woman exits the door at the Division of Revenue and Taxation's Compliance Branch in Dandan, shortly after filing her 2009 individual income tax return to beat yesterday's filing deadline. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Hundreds rush to beat tax deadline

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

E sperano Rabauliman, 48, forgot yesterday's deadline for filing his 2009 individual income tax returns until his supervisor reminded him about it. He paid \$5 to the Division of Revenue and Taxation for assistance in filling out the required tax forms. In a little over 10 minutes, he was on his way home. See TAX on Page 4

» Millions in rebates, refunds to be released 'on time'

## King to create a presidential search panel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A presidential search committee tasked to recruit and select the most qualified candidate for the presidency of the Northern Marianas College will be formed soon, according to Board of Regents chair Janet H. King.

She assured, though, that she will thoroughly consult her colleagues on the board before naming members of the search committee and that its members will



King

See KING on Page 4



### AWAODORI FESTIVAL

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team join visitors from Japan in performing before tourists and local residents in front of the DFS Galleria in Garapan yesterday as part of the 4th Annual Awaodori Festival on Saipan. Awaodori is a popular midsummer festival that began in the 16th century, with children and adults dancing to the beats of drums and other instruments.

See story on Page 5

## March visitor arrivals rebound



» Up 15 pct. from Japan; up 48 pct. from Korea

March 2010 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands saw double-digit growth from the islands'

primary markets of Japan and Korea when compared to March 2009.

See MARCH on Page 4

NMC Class of '10 selects McPhetres as keynote speaker. PAGE 3  
LaoLao Bay Resort donates \$10K to Manta Ray Band. PAGE 6

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# Local

## 19 law enforcers undergo jet ski training



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

CNMI law enforcement agencies, aided by the Guam Police Department, are trying to improve their rescue capabilities in sea accidents.

A total of 19 law enforcers are currently undergoing a 40-hour jet ski (wave runner) course on Saipan. The training is federally funded.

Certified jet ski instructors from the Guam Police Department—Sgt. Mark Aguon and Police Officer 3 Andrew Quitugua—are conducting the training.

DPS Boating Safety Section commander Sgt. Bernard Santos said the training began on Monday and is expected to be completed today, Friday.

DPS acting commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this is exactly what he wants: to bring law enforcement agencies together from the islands and work as a team.

Santos said the trainees are from the Saipan Boating Safety Section (7 personnel), Tinian BSS (1), Rota BSS (1), Saipan DPS Dive Rescue Team (2), Saipan DPS Fire (1), Saipan Coastal Resources Management (2), Saipan Division of Fish and Wildlife (4), and Saipan Commonwealth Ports Authority (1).

Yesterday, Aguon and Quitugua trained the officers how to maneuver the jet skis using

three different courses—eight, slalom, and turning about—in the lagoon behind the Civic Center in Susupe.

Aguon said the courses help officers build their confidence, teach them how to handle different jet skis, and enable them to learn balancing techniques.

"It's important for the community because when the community needs the officers for help, they would be prepared. This is the number one aspect of this training—to be prepared to assist the community in dire need," Aguon said.

With jet skis, response time to emergencies is shorter because it's faster, more efficient, and less expensive than a full-blown boat operation, he said.

Aguon said the local trainees are excellent. "They learned quick and they are very aggressive," he added.

Quitugua said what's important about jet skis is that they are agile, efficient, and very economical when it comes to boating operations.

"Jet skis can come alongside any boat out there and they can conduct inspections, they can do anything a boat does quicker and more efficiently," Quitugua said.

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# NMC Class of 2010 selects McPhetres as keynote speaker

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A former instructor at the Northern Marianas College has been selected by this year's batch of graduating students as their keynote speaker next month.

Sam McPhetres, who taught various courses at NMC including Marianas history, American history, American government and current issues, confirmed his participation in the May 22 commencement rites at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

According to Miles Rodrigues, Associated Students of NMC president, the graduating class selected McPhetres because of his impressive accomplishments, contributions to

"I am very honored to be chosen by the graduating students as keynote speaker for NMC's 30th Commencement Ceremony. ... I hope to deliver a speech that will entice, encourage and influence the graduating students to never lose a love for learning and to keep looking for that next adventure," McPhetres said.



MONETH DEPOSA  
Former Northern Marianas College instructor Sam McPhetres.

## 380 CHC employees, 105 others eyed for DPH in FY'11

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The lone hospital on island will be opening up more positions for doctors, nurses, and other health care personnel as soon as the Legislature approves the Department of Public Health's budget for next fiscal year.

Saipan Tribune learned that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has proposed 380 full-time employees for the Commonwealth Health Center and 105 other posts for other department sections.

Health Secretary Kevin Vil-

lagomez told Saipan Tribune last month that the hospital has 38 physicians and 235 nurses. Fitial's budget submission proposes an additional 107 posts at the hospital starting October this year.

Based on the governor's submission, DPH was proposed a budget ceiling of \$32.4 million for 485 full-time department employees.

Of this amount, \$19.1 million is allocated for the salary of employees while \$13.3 million will go to operations and supplies. For CHC alone, the governor

proposes a \$20.1 million budget, with \$16.3 million going toward personnel costs and \$3.7 million for operational expenses.

A large chunk of the department's proposed spending plan for next fiscal year will go toward Medicaid reimbursement, \$4.6 million. Patient referral is budgeted for \$3.4 million. Every year, the department's medical health referral program expenses show significant increases as a result of more patients being sent for treatment outside the Commonwealth.

the community, and his role in helping advance the education of many NMC students.

Rodrigues, who is also a graduating student, disclosed that other notable individuals were nominated during the meeting but McPhetres was on top of the list.

"He is a good teacher and many students learned much from his classes. We also selected him because we know that he will be a great source of inspiration for the graduating class at the graduation ceremony," Rodrigues said.

Interim president Lorraine Cabrera expressed her gratitude to McPhetres for accepting the invitation to be the

keynote speaker.

McPhetres, a former chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Fine Arts back in 2004-2008, was among those employees whose contracts were not renewed by former president Dr. Carmen Fernandez last year.

McPhetres is also former board member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and was its president in 1996. He also held various positions with the Trust Territory for the Pacific Islands as program developer, a coordinator for international organizations, and director of the Trust Territory Archives.

McPhetres is currently a self-employed consultant and writer.

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## Dems choose Jesse Borja as delegate bet

In a meeting on April 13, 2010, the Central Executive Committee of the NMI Democratic Party unanimously voted Jesse C. Borja as their candidate for CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress.

Party chair Jesse J. Torres had this to say of Borja's nomination: "We are proud to announce that Jesse Borja is our official candidate. We selected him based on his education and experience, and because of his deep-seated belief in the ideals of the Democratic Party."

The NMI Democrats are inviting the public to the Democrat Reunion General Meeting at the Minachom Attdao in Susupe on April 30 at 6:30pm. Jesse C. Borja will be speaking at the event and



Borja

the NMI Democrats will be registering new Democrat members.

"Jesse is the kind of candidate that the New Democratic Party is looking for," said press secretary Angelo O'Connor Villagomez. "I look forward to the community getting the opportunity to better know him."

Borja received his juris doctorate from Georgetown University and has been a member of the CNMI Bar Association since 1974. He served as an associate justice of the CNMI Supreme Court from 1989 to 1993 and as lieutenant governor from 1994 to 1998. Borja was also a member of the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws. He is currently in private practice on Saipan. (PR)

porary suspension of Delta Airlines flights between Nagoya and Saipan and Asiana Airlines between Osaka and Saipan in April.

Perry Tenorio, managing director of the MVA noted, "This just shows the critical importance of securing daily airlift out of Osaka to the Northern Marianas. In March, we enjoyed daily air service from Osaka, with major increases in the number of Japanese visitors to the NMI—while in April we are already suffering from temporarily suspended service and no direct arrivals from Osaka. It has to be a top priority of the MVA and its public and private partners to work toward having a stable year-round daily airlift out of the Osaka market. It means the difference between thousands of Japanese arrivals from Osaka in March and zero direct Osaka arrivals in April."

The MVA is now looking forward to a total of 17 charter flights to the Northern Marianas from Japan during the Golden Week holiday in late April and early May. Asiana Airlines will operate seven charter flight from Narita, six from Osaka and two from Hiroshima during the holiday week. Delta Airlines will also operate two special charter

want to file on the last day but here I am," she said. It took her only a few minutes to have her documents received and stamped.

### Rebates, refunds

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said they do not expect any delays in the issuance of refund and rebate checks this year.

Last year, the refund and rebate checks were sent out as early as June—much earlier than the previous years' releases of August or later.

"I reiterate the lieutenant governor's statement as to anticipating a timely release on the basis that we expect the rebate process to begin as scheduled," press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

Inos said there's between \$5 million and \$7 million so far in the rebate trust account, "and we keep building it up."

"We got funds reserved for that because rebate money belongs to taxpayers," Inos added.

He said refund is basically overpayment by taxpayers, whose withholdings exceed liability.

"That's your money. In fact, that's the money we pay first. Then the rebate is a return of a portion of your tax payments. So that's the second set. That's why you get two separate checks at two

"Yes, I know it's last day. I didn't

## CNMI works on Lighthouse report for possible visitors center site

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Until an engineering survey and cost analysis of the Lighthouse on Navy Hill are completed, other sites may still be considered for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitors center.

The Lighthouse was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in

1974. It is located on the highest point of Navy Hill behind Garapan on the western side of Saipan.

Press Secretary Angel Demapan said the Department of Land and Natural Resources will conduct an engineering survey and cost analysis of the Garapan or Navy Hill Lighthouse to determine its potential as a future Marine Monument visitor center or a visitor/education center for marine or environmental

flights from Narita.

Arrivals from Korea also registered a remarkable 48-percent growth in March 2010 over the previous March at 8,185 visitors. Riding the wave of economic recovery in the nation, available air seats to the NMI increased 17 percent—or by 12,059 seats—in March 2010 over the previous March. As Korea's economy continues to stabilize and outbound travel returns to normal, the MVA projects a continued recovery of the Korea market for 2010.

Bolstered by twice as many charter flights, China arrivals were also up 63 percent to 3,196 visitors. In March 2009 the NMI received two flights per week from Shanghai, while the islands now receive four flights per week from Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Meanwhile, arrivals from the secondary market of Russia were down 30 percent to 496 visitors. Guam and Philippines were down last month, as were the United States and Other Areas. In March 2009 the NMI received 3,326 visitors from two military ships and one cruise ship from the United States and Other Areas, compared to no visitor ship arrivals in March 2010. (MVA)

different times... We make sure there's sufficient fund to pay the rebate when they come," said Inos, a former secretary of Finance.

### Convenient filing

Elphidia Camacho, manager of the Compliance Branch of the Division of Revenue and Taxation, said income tax filing is much faster and more convenient this year and last year than in previous periods.

"That's because most people now come here with their tax forms completely filled out. We just check whether the documents are complete, then stamp and receive them. Since 2009, we limited the direct assistance to those filing their returns and charge them \$5. So most of them sought help from private tax services or friends," Camacho said in an interview in her office.

Camacho said being the branch manager for over 20 years, she has noticed that taxpayers wait until the last day to file their tax returns.

"We started receiving tax returns in late February but it started to pick up late last week. Even this morning, the crowd was not that big. But starting at 1pm, that's when we started seeing a number of people coming in at any given time. We will be open until 9:30

program.

"The work will include analysis of structural integrity, electrical, plumbing, safety, security of site, etc., as well as cost estimates of how much is needed to enable said lighthouse to function as an education or visitor center. Outstanding issues such as property ownership, parking, neighborhood concerns, etc. should also be examined," he told Saipan Tribune.

Demapan said a final report on the safety and viability of the Lighthouse, estimated renovation needs, including a detailed cost estimate, and an assessment of needed work, will be due to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration/Office of National Marine Sanctuaries by May 31, 2011.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) requested a member directed appropriation of \$220,000 for Fiscal year 2010 to be used for educational programs on marine sanctuaries.

He said this could be used for scoping work on the monument visitors center, including conducting public hearings on where the public wants to see the visitors center. He said it would have been better if the visitors center is near the ocean, but the Fitial administration said the Lighthouse also has a historical and maritime significance.

## KING

*From Page 1*

come from a cross section of the college community.

To this end, King will schedule a board meeting to specifically discuss the parameters that will be used to look for a new president to replace Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was fired last Tuesday.

This is not the first time NMC have had no permanent president. In 2006, then college dean Danny Wyatt temporarily occupied the position after then president Tony Deleon Guerrero resigned. It was only in March 2007 that Fernandez was named to the position.

King assured the public yesterday that NMC will continue to dispense quality education and services throughout the search process.

When asked if the board intends to retain all prior requirements for the presidency, King said the board and its legal counsel will tackle the issue to make sure that they will come up with the best candidate.

"We will look at that issue...and we will make sure our legal counsel is part of that," she said, adding that applications will be extended to off-island candidates.

### Hate e-mails

A group calling itself the NMC Col-

lective, meanwhile, has claimed re-

sponsibility for sending hate e-mails to King and interim president Lorraine Cabrera.

In a mass e-mail sent to NMC staff, regents, officials, and students on Wednesday, a copy of which was forwarded to the *Saipan Tribune*, it described NMC Collective as a loose association of current and former NMC faculty, staff, and students. The majority of its members, it said, live in the CNMI while a minority are off-island.

"We have attacked you as a group and we have attacked you as individual members. While we cannot claim credit for every nasty, negative, or critical e-mail you have been subject to, we would estimate based on those members who work at NMC that at least 50 percent came from the NMC Collective," the message stated.

It said, though, that it will now stop sending out hate e-mails. "These attacks against you and your families will stop as of today..." it said.

The message also apologized to several persons, including Janet King.

King, when asked for comment yesterday, reiterated that all e-mails sent anonymously were forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

She, however, noted that there have also been very warm, enthusiastic, and humbling e-mail messages, mostly from people who identify themselves.

For tax year 2009, the "Making work pay credit" of up to \$400 is available for eligible taxpayers who must complete Schedule M, as well as government retiree credits that need to be attached to Form 1040A-CM or 1040-CM. Taxpayers filing 1040-EZ must complete the worksheet on Form 1040-EZ. For more information on making work credit, go to [www.cnmidof.net](http://www.cnmidof.net).

Tina Lifoifoi, assistant manager at Powermate, a freight forwarders company, said she helped file the tax returns for 12 of their employees since Monday.

She said one of the employees provided a wrong Social Security number in the tax form, resulting in a fine of \$50.92.

While many went to legitimate private tax service companies or the Division of Revenue and Taxation, others sought help from friends for free tax preparations. Others sought the help of those moonlighting as tax preparers for a much cheaper fee of \$4 to \$5.

A tax preparer at Egli Corp. accounting service said just yesterday, she filed over 30 tax returns of clients.

"They waited for the last minute to file. Some said they received their W2 forms only on Wednesday. Some just got their forms from Revenue and Tax," she said.

# New microscope to aid NMC-CREES in worm research

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research and Extensive Education Service has acquired a new inverted microscope that will pave the way for the study of plant parasitic nematodes specific to the Northern Mariana Islands.

The microscope, acquired using a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will help Dr. Marisol Quintanilla conduct preliminary research for nematode identification in the Marianas.

Nematodes, also known as roundworms, are the most nu-

## Tokyo Tensuiren dancers here for Fourth Awa-Odori Festival

The Tokyo Tensuiren dance team, along with children from the Saipan Awa-Odori Team, launched the Fourth Annual Awa-Odori Festival on Saipan yesterday, under the auspices of the Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. Saipan.

The dancers held performances at five different venues beginning with two morning performances at Koblerville Elementary School and the Duty Free Shoppers Galleria in Garapan, and evening performances at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, the Garapan street market, and two separate performances on both stages at the Paseo de Marianas.

The Tokyo Tensuiren team members have been teaching local students the traditional Japanese dance twice a week at local youth learning centers in Koblerville, Gualo Rai, Tanapag, and Hopwood. Lessons have been offered for the past three years and this is the first year that the Awa-Odori team



NMC-CREES nematologist and entomologist Dr. Marisol Quintanilla demonstrates the use of the new inverted microscope.

merous and among the most diverse animals on the earth. A

cup of soil can have thousands of microscopic worms. These diverse animals are difficult to identify; 28,000 have been de-

scribed throughout the world, and of these, 16,000 are considered parasitic. It has been estimated that the total num-

ber of identified and unidentified roundworms may exceed 500,000.

"Some of these worms attack plants and cause yields of crops to decrease. Often the damage goes unseen because it takes place underground. Many local farmers experience these symptoms and they don't know why," said Quintanilla, nematologist and entomologist for NMC-CREES.

Mematodes are very resilient creatures. A sample of the *Helicotylenchus* nematodes that were collected on island on Feb. 10, 2010, were still alive yesterday after being refrigerated in the lab.

Quintanilla is the first and only nematologist in the CNMI.

She said the research labora-

tory is still putting together the rest of the materials and equipment necessary to begin more extensive research.

"I am glad that we have this new microscope, but we still need to fix the centrifuge and develop a soil washing apparatus, which are both important steps in extracting nematodes from soil. Within a couple weeks, nematology research will commence in the CNMI," said Quintanilla.

A centrifuge is a device that rotates at high speeds and is used to separate substances of different densities.

"Our goals include identifying nematodes in the area and try to develop and/or adapt control strategies to protect local agriculture," she said.

## Weekend Prepaid Sale



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# Watch out for health care reform law scammers

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has issued an alert against scammers hoping to take advantage of the confusion surrounding the details of the new health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009.

In a statement issued yesterday, NAIC said that state insurance regulators are receiving complaints about scam artists going door-to-door selling "ObamaCare" insurance policies or claiming there

is a limited open-enrollment period to buy health insurance.

## ON THE NET

[www.commerce.gov.mp](http://www.commerce.gov.mp)

Some of these scam artists have even set up bogus toll-free numbers to sell policies.

"The National Association of Insurance Commissioners

warns consumers who have been offered a policy that is a "limited-time offer," has limited benefits or is advertised as necessitated by health insurance reform, to stop before making a payment, call their state insurance department and

confirm the policy, agent and company are legitimate," the NAIC statement said.

The CNMI Department of Commerce, in collaboration with NAIC, is currently reviewing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 and its effect to the CNMI. No

CNMI official position has been released as of yet.

As part of Commerce's consumer outreach on the PPACA, the public is invited to visit [www.commerce.gov.mp](http://www.commerce.gov.mp) to access the latest release of Frequently Asked Questions on the health care reform, glossary of health insurance terms, and latest alert on health care reform scams. (PR)

## LaoLao Bay Resort donates \$10K to Manta Ray Band



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yun "Alex" Kim, president and chief financial officer of Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., Manta Band conductor William Dewitt, Human Resource manager Marylou Ada, and Maria Camacho join Manta Band members after the turnover of a \$10,000 check donation to the band.

Saipan LauLau Development Inc. donated \$10,000 to the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band on Monday, April 12, 2010, as part of the firm's ongoing goal for enhancing student learning in the educational community.

The firm, doing business as The LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman, awarded the check to the Manta Band to help defer the cost for its upcoming trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City.

"This once-in-a-lifetime trip to Carnegie Hall is the reason why our company wanted to help the students so that their learning is enhanced and for them to be able to compete

globally and represent the Commonwealth," said Yun "Alex" Kim, president and chief financial officer of Saipan LauLau Development, Inc.

The money will be exclusively used for the band's expenses while traveling to New York City. The Manta Band is scheduled to depart tomorrow, April 17, 2010.

Manta Band conductor William Dewitt said that SSHS Manta Band is very grateful for the donation. "Since last August the band has been working hard to fundraise so that to meet the expenses to compete in New York. The SSHS Administration and I are very thankful to the Saipan LauLau Development Inc. and the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort for their generous contribution and for supporting the musical talents of the students in the CNMI."

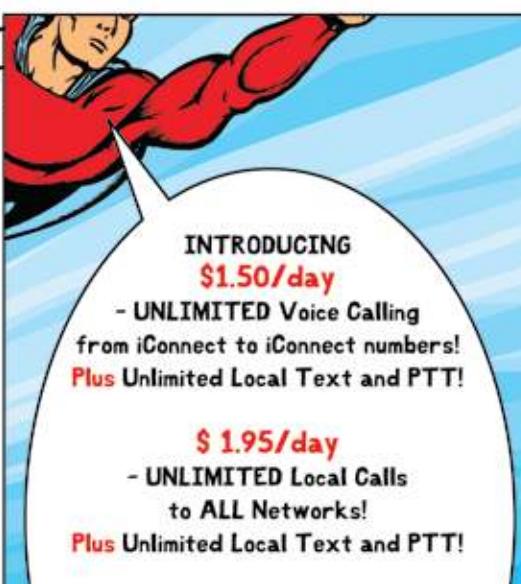
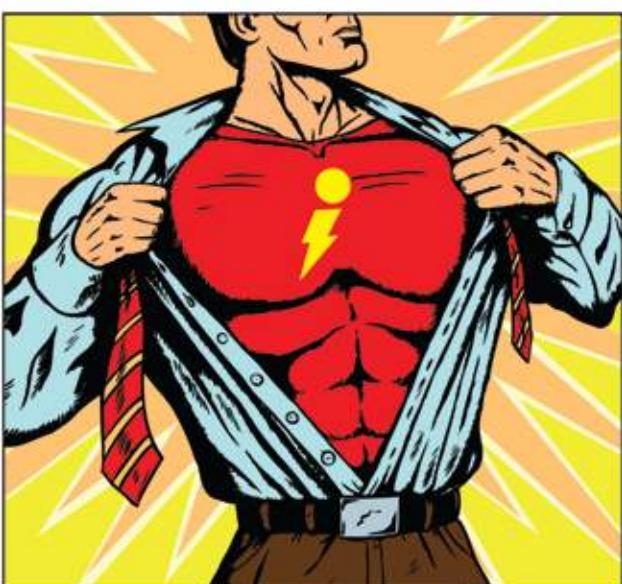
The donation came at the right time as the Manta Band still needed to fundraise to cover the remaining expenses to New York City. The Manta Band delegations are represented by 40 band members and 10 chaperones, including Dewitt.

"We feel that the CNMI now has this chance to make its mark in New York City and surely across America as the word spreads through the *Today Show*, ABC, NBC and a host of other organizations that will no doubt want to know how a band on a tiny little island paradise in the sun managed to best all other state bands to become only one of six in the nation to be chosen. Believe me when I say 'all eyes will be upon us.' We feel that this opportunity for the students to perform at Carnegie is not just about the Manta Ray band but more so about the CNMI as a whole. These 50 students and staff will be ambassadors of the CNMI who will proudly represent the Commonwealth on this trip and surely make a mark for our good name in history through this effort all thanks to the business donation such as Saipan LauLau Development Inc. for supporting us in this endeavor," said Craig Garrison, SSHS principal.

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., recognized this need and reached out to offer its financial assistance. "We understand that attending the competition abroad will broaden the horizons of our musically talented students. The benefits and exposure will be tremendous not only for the CNMI but the students as well," Yun Kim said. (PR)

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## Man throws rock at OVR staff, damages car

A man allegedly threw a rock at a staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Saipan on Navy Hill and shattered the glass window and windshields of the victim's vehicle Wednesday morning.

OVR special projects officer Manuel Ogarto sustained a large bruise in the neck, according to police.

Benjamin Joseph Fitial, 33, was arrested at the scene for assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Ogarto and Fitial are cousins.

Fitial's bail hearing was set

for yesterday afternoon.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman initially imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for Fitial's temporary release.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a caller told police about a disturbance at the OVR office on Wednesday at 11:13am.

Manacop said when a police officer arrived at OVR, Fitial approached him at the parking lot and admitted damaging Ogarto's car.

The officer saw a blue Mitsubishi Montero with extensive damage, with the left window and the rear windshield shat-

tered. The front windshield was also shattered and a large rock was still resting on the glass.

Police later arrested the suspect.

Manacop said Ogarto told police that Fitial had arrived at OVR and had asked to borrow Ogarto's vehicle. When Ogarto said no, Fitial walked to the vehicle and began breaking it.

Ogarto added that Fitial had also gone to his house in Chalan Kanoa that morning and had asked to use the car. When Ogarto refused, Fitial picked up a rock and threw it at him. The victim was hit on the back of neck. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Probable cause found to charge suspected major supplier of 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against a suspected major supplier of methamphetamine or "ice."

Manglona said there is probable cause to believe that Jing Xin Xiao may have committed the offenses he is accused of, after listening to the testimony of detective Steven A. Castro and arguments of assistant attorney general William Downer.

Assistant public defender Matthew Holley, counsel for Xiao, did not offer arguments.

Manglona ordered Xiao, a

Chinese male, to answer the charges of trafficking of controlled substance, and illegal possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Arraignment was set for April 26. Bail was kept at \$50,000 cash.

Castro related to the court the operation that led to the arrest of Xiao and the search of his house in Papago on April 7. Castro said they were able to recover over \$230 grams of "ice" and drug paraphernalia.

He said some of the illegal drugs were concealed in a container that was buried in a three-inch hole in Xiao's backyard. It was about 15 feet from the house.

Castro said they searched

the backyard because a "confidential defendant" told them the illegal drugs were buried.

"We looked around. We looked for fresh soil," said Castro.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David earlier said 236.5 gross grams of "ice" with a street value of \$118,250 were recovered during the raid, making it the largest drug bust that DPS conducted without the help of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI was conducted by joint teams of DEA and DPS in August 2009. Four suppliers of "ice" were arrested and the operatives recovered 1,021.4 grams of "ice" valued at \$510,000.



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## Dragon Edong to showcase hand-tapped tattooing

Dragon Edong will again showcase his world-class talent with an exhibition of the traditional art of hand-tapped tattooing in the upcoming Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 23-25, at the Susupe Beach Park.

A hand-tapped tattoo has been described as a very personal experience because of the lengthy time devoted to do the tattoo and design. It is believed to have originated in Polynesia where tattoos are a means of determining the wearer's personality as well as his rank in society. The word tattoo came from the Samoan word tatau, "to mark."

Hand-tapped tattooing still exists in many parts of the world today. The elements include charcoal that is made into a paste, thorns from a calamansi tree (used as needles) to decorate the body, and soot of candlewax mixed with water or oil.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dragon Edong and assistant Fe Elenzano demonstrate the traditional art form of hand-tapped tattooing.

Tattooing by hand is more difficult than using tattoo machines. Using a comb-like tool, the artist needs to use the same

amount of force with every tap. He also needs to be consistent in exerting the same amount of resistance in order for the needle

to have the same depth as it goes into the skin.

But, after the tedious process and extra time spent in creating a hand-tapped tattoo, the satisfaction of creating a work of art using traditional means is priceless. These tattoos typically have significant meaning to the wearer and indicate things like family line, social status, and tribal affiliations. Some even use them as talismans to protect them from ill and harm.

Now is your chance to witness traditional tattooing in the flesh as internationally recognized artist Dragon Edong, who has won several awards and recognition from different tattoo competition and festivals around the world, shares his expertise.

To know more about Dragon Edong and his artistry, visit his official Web site at [www.eldrakotattoo.com](http://www.eldrakotattoo.com). (PR)

## \$8M to expand food stamp for low-income seniors

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced yesterday that USDA will invest in pilot projects to increase access and participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program, among low-income seniors. Award grants totaling approximately \$8 million will allow state agencies to pursue innovative outreach and delivery pilot projects.

"The Obama Administration has put in place unprecedented

measures and legislation to combat hunger and poverty in America and to assist food insecure households," said Vilsack. "Expanding nutrition assistance among underserved populations, such as seniors, will require us to seek innovative methods for program outreach and delivery. These grants will allow State agencies to pursue those programs and deliver help to Americans in need."

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is encouraging state agencies to submit grant appli-

cations for programs designed to boost SNAP participation among Medicare's Extra Help population. Extra Help, also called the Low Income Subsidy, is a program to help low-income individuals or couples with limited resources pay for their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. Under a new law, data from these applications is sent to State Medicaid agencies to enroll people in Medicare Savings Programs. FNS will provide funding to encourage the Extra

Help population to participate in SNAP by using State Medicaid agency data from Medicare Savings Programs. FNS invites State agencies to submit applications that will implement outreach efforts, simplify eligibility, or standardize benefits for this population. The deadline to submit grant proposal applications is June 30, 2010.

Interested State agencies may obtain grant applications at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) or [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap).

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## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**APRIL 16, 2001**

### NMIRF eyes new premium hike

The Retirement Fund is looking at the possibility of another premium rate increase to salvage the Group Health and Life Insurance Program from deep financial woes. Fund Board Chair Vicente M. Camacho disclosed that a comprehensive study and review of the premium hike is now underway to justify the needed rate increase and how it can fuel the operation of the government health program. He said the proposal stemmed from the continued operational expenses and outstanding debts to off- and on-island health providers, and the seeming inability of the Legislature to provide the NMIRF additional fund to finance GHLI operations.

### Speedy completion of CIPs eyed

The Legislature is seeking to institute a measure that would ensure the speedy completion of all Capital Improvement Projects by hiring private companies that would oversee construction developments. As a concrete step, the Senate recently passed legislation that would pave the road for the hiring of extra-governmental on-site inspection and engineering companies which will ensure smooth and faster construction works at all CIPs. Under Senate Bill 12-89, ten percent of funds appropriated for capital improvement projects will be used to finance contract management and administration of projects.

**APRIL 16, 2002**

### Pete A. assures \$11M in CIP funding

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio assured that the U.S. Congress is supportive of President Bush's budget plan that seeks to maintain capital improvement assistance to the CNMI at \$11 million in Fiscal Year 2003. "The U.S. Congress supports that. I don't see any resistance. The appropriate committees of Congress that are in-charge of this particular authorization and appropriation have no qualms about it. We're doing very well there," Tenorio said in a recent interview. He emphasized that the U.S. Congress fully understands the need for a full funding in the next fiscal year for capital improvement.

### US help in groundwater cleanup seen coming

The Division of Environmental Quality expects the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to render assistance in the cleanup of Saipan's groundwater, according to DEQ Deputy Director Antonio I. DeLeon Guerrero. DeLeon Guerrero was attending the CNMI's 1st Environmental Symposium that kicked off yesterday morning at the Saipan Diamond Hotel, as part of the activities for Environmental Awareness Month. Also at the symposium yesterday afternoon, DEQ's Safe Drinking Water Branch manager Joe Kaipat—aided by a Saipan Tribune article on water contamination—presented the issue to local and federal delegates.

**APRIL 16, 2003**

### NMIRF adopts new formulary

The NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees has adopted a new formulary—a list of drugs covered under the Group Health and Life Insurance Program—to give its members more flexibility in their choices of prescription medicines. The new formulary, which was adopted during a special meeting yesterday afternoon, now goes to the Office of the Governor and the Attorney General's Office for approval. It becomes effective once the Executive Branch gives it the thumbs-up. The new list of covered drugs supplants the previous formulary that the Board adopted last March 18. Board chairman Joseph Reyes explained that the March 18 formulary covered only generic drugs. "This new formulary that we adopted not only allows generic drugs but includes branded drugs. That's the major difference and we feel that it should be flexible so that people can obtain brand-name drugs if generic drugs are available or if a member opts for the brand-name drug," he said.

### Babauta pins hopes on OTEC plan

The Babauta administration is not giving up on Sea Solar Power International's proposal to build a \$50-million Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant in the CNMI, despite the controversy that has developed between the company's president and Saipan Senator Ramon S. Guerrero. (See related story on page 9) In a press statement, Gov. Juan N. Babauta pronounced yesterday that his administration has no intention of abandoning the exploratory project "before it even gets off the ground." "This administration is committed to exploring solutions that will benefit our islands for years to come. Ocean thermal energy conversion may very well provide the energy and fresh water that we will need as our population continues to grow," said the Governor.

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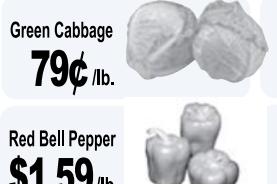
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# Opinion

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Price of war too high

**A**s America inches closer to a decade of war, the cost increasingly is being questioned. People who years ago might have feared being called unpatriotic are lambasting the trillion dollars spent since 9/11.

A group called the National Priorities Project has a popular Web site that keeps a running tally of the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It even breaks down the cost per city and suggests what could have been purchased in a year with that tax money.

Philadelphia's share of federal tax money spent on the wars, for example, is calculated at \$3.8 billion since 2001. For that amount, 933,498 people could receive health care for a year, says NPP; 59,912 elementary-schoolteachers could be paid; 38,415 affordable-housing units provided; or 262,188 scholarships awarded.

Matt Ryan, the mayor of Binghamton, N.Y., population 47,000, was so impressed with the numbers for his town that he plans to attach a digital cost-of-war counter to the facade of City Hall. By September, Binghamton taxpayers will have contributed \$138 million to fund the wars.

Ryan says the country's priorities are "skewed," and some mayors of larger cities, including Chicago's Richard Daley and Boston's Thomas Menino, have lately been leveling the same criticism.

It's not as if all that federal tax money would be redirected to America's cities were it not for the war, but their point is well taken. Nearly a quarter of Binghamton's residents have incomes below the poverty line, so it's understandable that their mayor would want the federal government to pay it more attention.

From another perspective, while struggling Americans should get the help they need, the poor economy amid the wars has forced cities to tailor their spending more carefully. While some, including Philadelphia, still cast longing eyes at the tax well, others are finding innovations to cut costs without gutting services.

Budget pressures felt from the White House to Binghamton City Hall should keep President Obama glued to his war plans. It will take a major setback for him to abandon his timetable to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq by August and remove all U.S. forces by December 2011. But any cost savings may be offset by troop increases in Afghanistan.

The costs so far have led U.S. Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., chairman of the Appropriations Committee, to propose a war tax. A similar bill in 2007, with proceeds dedicated to the fighting in Iraq, had only seven co-sponsors. But 19 have signed on to Obey's new bill, which would direct war-tax revenue to the Afghanistan theater.

Obey says a graduated surtax would cost a family earning \$50,000 annually only \$50. But that's the wrong calculation. He should consider that the mayors objecting to war spending are mirroring their constituents' desire to see more tax dollars spent otherwise. The nation is becoming war-weary.

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### A King moved, long live the Queen!

**J**anet may be forgiven any perceived pretensions by virtue of her name. She came to it naturally by birth. With a touch of regal firmness, she just presided over a contentious Board of Regents on a controversial matter regarding certain actions of NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

Add to the steady but cautious legal demeanor, a pinch of tropical beauty and our BOR King is also a Queen. She came at the latter title by acclamation. Not everyone is given the opportunity to beam beautifully on the Miss Universe pageant's ramp as she once did. And "Grace," though not her middle name, might just as well be, following her expeditious facilitation of getting transparency over the NMC imbroglio.

It was not an easy task. The presumed attempt at humor by a student, very much needed on an island short on real entertainment, by the phrase, "We do not need a King, we need a President," turned ugly when used in personal attacks; and the revelation that hateful emails where received to bully the BOR chair and the acting NMC president has now gotten the FBI involved.

In fact, Janet's middle name is "Han," which was China's second dynasty that unified the Empire after the Qin. This core value of wanting to balance and harmonize is the sinewy and curvaceous power of the yin-yang, and the steely BOR chair kept her cool while shepherding her colleagues to arrive at a judicious judgment.

In the end, after a four-hour session that looked at all their options, a close vote decided to terminate the suspended college president. The decision was received with a big sigh of relief exemplified by one of the college students who said: "I am... happy that a decision has been finally made so we can all move forward." There were many in the college who echoed the same sentiment. There are other weighty matters that emotional energy can be better channeled into and it was time to move on.

Charles Cepeda, former BOR chair who took a different view on how the case needed to be handled, added a note of satisfaction on the fact that the Regents deliberated on all options, reflecting on the integrity of each member's meticulousness in presenting their votes. "It is time to move forward and start the process of selecting the next president," he added.

The vitriol that accompanied the BOR deliberations from parties not directly affected by the matter got very personal, particularly from the menfolk. This reflection is not about singing praises for Janet (she's had enough of that, we are told) but to focus on our male-dominated leadership style sorely lacking of a feminine touch in our deliberative process.

We have grown so used to the methodology of arguing opponents down by ridiculing their perspective, maligning their position, questioning their integrity, and defaming their personalities that leadership by divide-and-conquer is the standard procedure in communal decision making. At least, this is true for most of the menfolk, as well as females who will out-duke our posturing studs. Sarah Palin is most popular among menfolk, according to Tina Fey's irreverent role-playing, when she dykes it out good in the public forum. The more masculine the mojo, particularly when draped in S/M leather, the louder the cheer from the bleachers of adoring tea baggers! Her audience lapped it up when she thundered dripping with steroids at the Boston Commons that "we will keep our Constitution, our guns

**By JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



and our religion; you may keep the change!"

Carmen's undoing is, perhaps, not so much with the altering of grades, although that by itself constitutes fraud in its most basic meaning. The fact is, that practice is not unknown in these parts. Did we not lose a principal in one of our schools not too long ago for her stubborn refusal to play the game of making a scion of a politically connected family ascend to the honors' circle with a fudging of grades? I remember being accused of discriminating against local students for allowing the top three honors of a 6th grade transitioning class without kin of a single *Taotao tano/Taotao tasi*.

Of course, the NMC case is rumored to be a bit more serious. As an elder commented, "How will I trust the NMC-graduated nurse by my clinic bedside if I am not certain that she/he was not one of those whose grades got altered?"

More than the issue of altered grades, it seems that Carmen erred in handling her public relations profile. This is hardly unique in this island's utilization of human resource, given the historical exploitation of labor progressively applied with subtlety and sophistication from the Spanish era to the present. The impression that Carmen ran academe like a garment industry sweatshop rather than as an institution of arts and humanities (which an associate degree in a community college provides prior to the choice of a profession) has occasioned more stepped-upon toes than anything else. And though we do not wish to diminish the gravity of the offense on taking liberties over grade records, particularly in the absence of consent by those who granted them, we suspect that Carmen's slip-up was forgetting that handling machismo was better left to a male colleague were one to use the convincing/coercing method of carrot and stick.

A recent series of photos of Queen Elizabeth welcoming our current half-Kenyan executive and his wife makes one realize that the ranked civility of the empire she rules, at least, in comparison to other states, is the fact that its head of state is a queen. Elizabeth II already completed her jubilee year of continuous reign over the United Kingdom, which includes Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. A constitutional monarch who is politically neutral and whose daily functions are purely ceremonial, nevertheless, she remains a stable symbol of proper decorum, of good manners and right conduct, at least in the public eye.

Hillary Rodham found popular disfavor on her first term at the White House when she appeared to out-Bill William Jefferson Clinton. She has fared better with pink and pastels at Foggy Bottom. In our view, Janet facilitates like a king, and influences like a queen. A Han is often quoted as having declared that women hold up half of the sky. We'll let this Han do so!

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Economics: Two pieces

I'd rather talk about Saipan's economic situation than the world at large, since the problems in the CNMI keep getting more acute, though they are (for now) still fixable. Seems that a lot of folks are on the cusp of a nervous breakdown or something. So I'll try to salve this sore by mentioning that the Commonwealth's economic problems are actually very solvable.

I don't mean solvable in some abstract, armchair, foggy, theoretical sense.

No, I mean that the problems are genuinely and realistically solvable. Furthermore, they are solvable without a need for further so-called "development," without the unrealistic and wacky notions of mystical "investors," without further compromising a natural environment that is showing signs of stress, and without expecting some magical transformation of the workforce into something it's not.

So things don't have to be this bad. If you want to know why things haven't been solved, well, there are a few reasons. One, of course, is the hostility of the local government to independent economic expertise; it prefers its patronage courtiers.

But the private sector isn't entirely blameless. Some elements do have a reputation for being very parochial, with that good ol' boy attitude of "If we don't know it, then it ain't worth knowin'," which is an economic recipe for stagnation or backwardness.

Caught in between is the local workforce, which pretty much has nowhere to turn. They can't vote for anyone who can change things; they just get more of the same. They lack the capital to start substantial enough businesses to raise the bar here. So the people of the Commonwealth are indeed stuck. Really, truly, stuck.

It doesn't have to be this way. But economic problems require economic solutions, and the Commonwealth has been remarkably hostile to the very thing that can save it.

There's more to be said, but we'll take that up in the future, since I'm splitting today's column into two pieces.

■ ■ ■

Shifting our focus to the outside world, hence my second piece of the column, some *Tribune* readers have got a lively e-mail discussion rolling regarding investments and such, which dovetails with my March 26 article on Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and my April 9 piece on oil prices. So I want to follow through with a few notes.

As far as ETFs go, well, we're not the only guys talking about them. The April 12 issue of Barron's financial weekly has an article about how a new breed of ETFs is offering a more aggressive management style, sort of acting like mutual funds instead of being merely passive vehicles. The take-away here is that ETFs are evolving.

If you want any evidence that ETFs are the hot thing, here are some figures from Barron's: In 2006, ETFs had net assets of \$521.4 billion. This year, they're standing at \$1.1 trillion.

Meanwhile, I have updated my widget at [SaipanBlog.com](#), and instead of merely providing the latest oil price at a glance, it now shows prices of seven important commodities: oil, natural gas, gasoline, heating oil, gold, silver, and copper.

Even folks who don't mess around with commodities speculation are probably aware that commodities have been like a real-life adventure movie over the past couple of years. Oil is one hot topic, as you know, but there are others.

For example, gold. One of my first articles for the *Tribune*, or

**By ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at [TropicalEd.com](#) and [SaipanBlog.com](#).*



perhaps maybe even my very first article, was about the fall in gold prices back in 1997. In that year, gold drifted down in price, below \$290 an ounce in some cases. Now, it's \$1,157 per ounce. You could write an entire text, or better yet a novel, about why the price went up so much. If your significant other is pestering you to buy her some jewelry, this might be a good time to hide in Bali or something.

I think that commodities are destined to start getting a lot more attention from average people. For one thing, Asia needs them to grow, and this will ripple all over the world's markets. For another thing, the toxic debt beneath many global currencies is going (or so I think) to inspire many people to look for more "solid" places to put their wealth. This will be, for some people, a total disaster, since there is an element of hype and chicanery when folks are baited to mess with commodities. Still, anyone with an interest in economics will wind up spending a good bit of attention following this realm; you can keep an eye on the markets, and your money away from the markets, so it's all education, and no financial risk.

### THE RETIREMENT FUND

## What a difference nine years made—or did it?

### *Another look at pension obligation bonds*

Not quite 10 years ago my first article concerning the looming crises with the Retirement Fund appeared in a local paper on July 10, 2001 under the headline, "The Retirement Fund's 'Creeping Meltdown—Neglect of the Fund.'" My purpose in writing the article, which over a period of the next nine years expanded to more than 80 different op-ed pieces, all carried basically the same warning, which advised all members of the Retirement Fund to take their future financial security for themselves and their families more seriously. Here are several excerpts from my files of that very first alert made many years ago.

"Regrettably, I am afraid some members of the Legislature—past and present—have permitted the Fund to lapse into its present financial condition and the failure to correct this urgent situation can only result in a meltdown of the Fund and the future financial security of the members, both present and future."

"Employee contributions paid into the Fund does not—and cannot—lie idle. They must be invested to earn more money. When the government fails to pay its obligation, or when the Legislature fails to allocate money that it has authorized, the retirees, both present and future, have been deprived of this money and the interest it could have earned for them."

"Fund administrators have been trying for several years to collect from the government what is owed the Fund but has had something less than total success with only intermittent band-aid contributions."

"Apparently, preservation of the Fund has been, and continues to be, a low priority. Many misinformed politicians and government officials believe the Fund has millions of dollars available. This is not true. The money that the Fund does have must be invested and reinvested for those retiring 10 to 15 years from now. Presently the Retirement Fund operates under the handicap of an unfunded government liability of about \$60 million dollars (sic.). The problem is not with the administration of the Fund and its employees who do a good job—but with the government's failure to pay its obligation and in particular with legislative inaction."

"Basically it works like this: for example, a male individual retiring at, say, age 58, should have a continuing normal average life span of 25.9 more years during which time the Fund will be paying him a bimonthly sum of money. For a person (male) age 62 and retired, the estimated remaining years of life are 22.5—again the period the Fund will pay a bimonthly allotment to that person. That is why the money that the Fund does have invested must remain invested and not touched or withdrawn to make up for the government's shortfall. Life spans differ for women and various ethnicities. Women usually live longer than men. I guess they worry less."

"The government's failure to correct this urgent situation can only mean an eventual meltdown of the Fund and jeopardize the

financial security of many of the Fund's members, both at the present and those in the future."

"It has been alleged that the Fund has threatened to sue the government in an effort to get it to pay up. I suppose there is nothing to prohibit interested members in considering a class action suit as well."

"If the government simply states that it is broke and can't pay, this can affect its future bond rating. If a court were to require the government to declare bankruptcy, this could open an entirely new can of worms as conceivably, government assets, including land, rent collections, etc., could be attached or sold by the court."

"The Fund has invested heavily in the U.S. and Asian economies—there's really no place else to invest to diversify its portfolio. Some of these economies are in trouble, with the result that Fund management has enough on its hands to worry about without the

*Regrettably, I am afraid some members of the Legislature—past and present—who have permitted the Fund to lapse into its present financial condition and the failure to correct this urgent situation can only result in a meltdown of the Fund and the future financial security of the members, both present and future.*

—July 10, 2001

government's lack of payment of that money which it owes. This problem has festered like a hemorrhaging wound for many years and it's getting worse. Band-aid efforts won't help in the long run.

"Since the November elections will soon take place (sic) and political pocket meetings will be held all over the islands, I would like to suggest to those former government employees who are now retired and those planning to do so sometime in the future that they request each candidate running for office when attending political meetings that he or she bring a prepared and signed statement that among the first items on their agenda, if elected, will be to solve the matter of the government's outstanding financial obligation to the Fund. (Author's note: remember reader this was written 9 years ago.)

"I have been around long enough to know that with island poli-

**By WILLIAM H. STEWART**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.*



tics, *familia* is everything. This time, however, it is also about money—member's money—big money.

"This is an extremely serious situation as times are far more complex for the islands than during the days of the Trust Territory and, indeed, only a few years ago. Intelligent, knowledgeable lawmakers are needed now more than ever if the many problems facing the Commonwealth are to be resolved to the advantage of the people."

"A newsletter should be issued by the Fund to keep members informed of issues of interest as well as the voting record of legislators on matters related to the retirees' equity in the Fund."

"Perhaps the time has also come to form a local association of retired people similar to the powerful American Association of Retired Persons and join together as a forceful voting block to make certain that only those candidates dedicated to solving the Fund's financial problems by working out a permanent arrangement for the government to pay what it owes the Fund should be considered for office. Indeed, perhaps the time has come for one or more retired people to run for elected office."

As mentioned the article above appeared in 2001. What a difference nine years have made—or have they? A lawsuit was filed nine years later and an association of retirees was finally formed in the same year. The NMI government is making token payments but they are in amounts far less than required. There's still no newsletter.

To compensate for the NMI government's fiscal and fiduciary irresponsibility there is talk of floating a pension obligation bond (POB) of which the payments to bond holders would be guaranteed by—guess who? If you guessed the retirees themselves you would have guessed right.

There's talk the retiree's own government employer's contribution would guarantee the bonds, including in all probability an extremely high rate of interest. How's that for solving a financial problem with mirrors to the extreme detriment of members? Of course, the attorneys suggesting such a solution are probably not all members of the DBP so the money doesn't come out of their pocket, only from the retirees. If you think that's a good deal—I have a bunch of stuff in the weeds out back I would like to sell you.

*See WHAT on Page 13*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 56
Beijing	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 44
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 58
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 55
Miami	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 68
New York	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 48
Osaka	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 46
Paris	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 47
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 39
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 47
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 61

## Tides

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset			
Today	6:03 AM	6:32 PM	Today		
2:48 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet	6:51 AM	8:04 PM	
8:01 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet	Saturday	7:40 AM	9:02 PM
3:03 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	Sunday	8:33 AM	10:01 PM
9:47 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet	Monday	9:30 AM	10:58 PM
			Tuesday	10:30 AM	11:53 PM

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#### ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z604	2:20am	6:10am	1	0Z605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	0Z704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
				0Z706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
0Z606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN	C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
0Z606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				0Z702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am					

**Letter to the Editor****Something's odd here**

Recently the Speaker of the House of Representatives filed a certified legal question with the Supreme Court regarding the proper term of the Legislative Bureau director. The respondent, or the person disagreeing with the speaker in this petition is Rep. Stanley Torres. The Speaker claims the LB director's term ends with each new legislature; the respondent, Torres, takes the opposing view. This is odd, as our newspapers have for months detailed a disagreement on this issue between members of the Senate, including me and the Speaker.

If Speaker Tenorio believes something illegal is going on, the LB director's contract is invalid, or there is some abuse of power, let him raise the issue through the normal legal route, like any other citizen. But Article IV Section 17 of the Constitution clearly establishes how the LB director may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority vote of both houses. Clearly, had the speaker been able to remove the LB director consistent with his provision he would have done so. Not getting his way, he asks the Supreme Court to do what the Constitution would not allow.

Clearly, we have more pressing issues, like "passing a budget in 30 days," than who gets to appoint the LB director. I call on my colleagues to focus on how to fix the problems we face rather than trying to decide who gets to hire legislative staff, or who is in control on Capital Hill.

**Sen. Jude Hofschneider**  
Vice President 17th Senate

**WHAT**

From Page 11

In my judgment a pension obligation bond might be worth considering if it was shown to be advantageous to retirees, and only at a reasonable interest rate and guaranteed by only the NMI's general fund and definitely not by the retiree's money or even by funds which they are owed.

There's a lot of information on the Internet regarding problems associated with such bonds. You just have to find it and it helps to know what you are looking for. Those interested should check out the "Center for Retirement Research", Boston College, <http://crr.bc.edu/> and in particular the following subjects listed thereon: "The Funding of State and Local Pensions: 2009-2013"—by Alicia H. Munnell, et al., April 2010 and "The Financial Crisis and State/Local Defined Benefit Plans," November 2008 by the same authors. For an appreciation of the issues related to Puerto Rico's Pension Obligation Bond effort, if you are curious, Google "Puerto Rico Pension Obligation Bonds." There's a lot at this site. Here are few pertinent points. The government of Puerto Rico borrowed \$2.9 billion through pension bonds in 2008, betting that it could reap annual returns of 8.5 percent

investing the money, while paying its bondholders 6.5 percent. So far, Puerto Rico's wager isn't paying off. The 8.5 percent expected rate of return has instead been a loss of more than \$200 million, according to a Dec. 12 presentation by PR fund administrators to legislators. Puerto Rico was betting on an arbitrage transaction, which is bad news for a pension fund—better to take the money to Las Vegas and at least have fun while you lose other people's money.

It has been noted that actuaries consistently permit public pension funds to report artificially high expected rates of return—most often 8 percent and as much as 8.75 percent. So NMI beware of those who consult a crystal ball as it may be NMI retirees who will be forced to eat ground glass.

*Editor's note: The author considers himself the self-appointed economic ombudsman (without portfolio) to speak and write for all those Fund members who agree with his position and observations. He considers it a worthwhile civic hobby to contemplate issues related to the Retirement Fund and enjoys the challenge of being the economic conscience of those who share his opinions and concerns. Economic research is his passion, the Retirement Fund his cause célèbre. His articles are provided to this paper gratis.*



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2X4X20 TREATED: \$11.20	
UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - \$4.15	2X4X14 - \$6.50
2X4X14 - \$4.65	2X4X16 - \$7.70
2X4X16 - \$5.20	2X6X12 - \$10.00
2X4X18 - \$5.70	2X6X14 - \$11.00
2X4X20 - \$6.30	2X6X16 - \$13.00
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X18 - \$14.50
2X6X14 - \$7.60	
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2X6X18 - \$9.90	
2X6X20 - \$10.90	2X6X20 - \$16.90
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# NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF UMBRELLA PERMIT

Friday, April 16, 2010 - First Notice  
Friday, April 23, 2010 - Second Notice

Take Notice:

The Umbrella Permits for the following individuals have been revoked after default hearing:

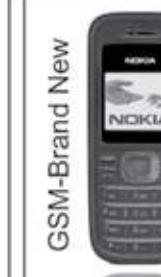
NAME	LIIDS	NAME	LIIDS
Acabal, Vivian	120639	Lopez, Cynthia	291003
Adelan, Rosendo	151286	Lorena, Melchor	173308
Aguirre, Evelyn	103941	Lozada, Soligay	113745
Alvaro, Edilberto	176210	Luo, Dewen	155054
Ansus, Realy	300310	Ma, Cunyan	302816
Arriola, Rosa	111115	Macale, Estelita	153342
Aspiras, Teodora	145054	Makilan, Ramelo	116772
Atud, Visitacion	110859	Malsi, Arnel	111099
Baitlon, Glenn Tiglao	311710	Mapalo, Valerie	151360
Baskinas, Ethel	290900	Mirasol, Joey	204523
Bautista, Marites	280628	Moico, Antonio	197120
Bhuiyan, Khairul	105272	Montes, Arthur	312442
Bhuiyan, MD Nozir Ahmed	133998	Nan, Changgen	286432
Biascan, Emelda	111615	Niduaza, Erano	173843
Bisnar, Alicia	133051	Oblefias, Anicia Palmaria	294348
Briones, Warlito	110861	Ocampo, Fernando	111864
Caacbay, Leonardo	103889	Palacio, Nazareth	152566
Caballero, Ethel	113861	Pantaleon, Leticia	113069
Camacho, Dionisio	131253	Parial, Aurora	134658
Campollo, Herminia	128725	Patanao, Maria Vina	189106
Cao, Ming Yan	122908	Phonsan, Sudarat	106306
Cartagena, Lina	158843	Piao, Zhengyu	295670
Cervantes, Cleofe	174220	Pineda, Mario	103433
Cervantes, Rowena	311492	Pineda, Odilon	172708
Chang, Zhenghua	297311	Pitogo, Celso	297755
Chen, Huawang	295706	Prasansee, Janthai	125368
Collo, Amante	113481	Quan, Yushan	111159
Corilla, Gaudencia	112532	Ragadi, Glory	110137
Corpuz, Leonida	127821	Rahman, MD Moklesur	125211
Cruz, Josefino	117460	Ramirez, Dominador	106678
Dawana, Violeta	173682	Ramiro, Mercedita	118223
Deng, Chaomei	286849	Ramos, Elizabeth	130783
Deng, Lixia	132833	Ranoco, Editha	123926
Dev, Madhavi Rani	291943	Rao, Haili	142496
Diocton, Teotimo	104742	Rao, Zhikun	201836
Dizon, Leticia	162262	Rasool, Amir	156370
Dosdos, Epenita	160359	Rejano, Ramon	111781
Ducut, Corazon	125412	Reonal, Julian	138015
Duenas, Nida	285988	Reyes, Allen Rey	283320
Ebdane, Rodolfo	108935	Reyes, Augusto	104411
Eusebio, Jimmy	173309	Rivera, Reggienald	158101
Faura, Normita	124074	Robediso, Rosemarie	192578
Feliciano, Mary Ann	289636	Salvador, Solomon	105561
Ferrer, Susana	144745	Sanchez, Edna	133851
Galang, Elizabeth	302389	Santos, Maritess	288095
Gallega, Rogelio	101839	Shi, Lanxiang	197738
Gambon, Melchor	150136	Sikder, Mohamad Badal	175067
Gases, Nenita	128610	Sun, Hongmei	137096
Genez, Elizabeth	149993	Tejada, Ligaya	105049
Guerzon, Juanito	160764	Tuazon, Perlita	112511
Gumabay, Antonio	149396	Wang, Jing	280454
Hernandez, Bonifacio	139951	Wang, Xilan	203318
Hou, Na	300490	Wang, Xingjing	310364
Huang, Yongmei	286510	Xia, Aiming	181615
Iballar, Rodolfo	106151	Xia, Yanli	174413
Ibisate, Lucila	103796	Xiao, Yanbang	155050
Isip, Sonia Jean	287927	Xu, Hong Mei	183674
Java, Rowena	173674	Xu, Ping	181015
Jin, Jihu	281596	Xu, Xiongjie	185841
Kim, Kyeong Hee Seo	130704	Yabut, Marlyn	112515
Labarda, Lilia	286242	Yang, Honghui	123425
Lagman, Eligio	146915	Zhang, Lijun	100589
Lang, Xuefen	186234	Zheng, Feng Lin	127875
Lee, Dol Soo	144472	Zheng, Jingwen	200980
Li Xiu Yu	148802	Zheng, Xingqin	297192
Lim, Susana DJ	119067	Zhou, Yaping	170988
Llamado, Arsenia	128841	Zhuang, Yiling	189163

This is a final notice of revocation of your umbrella permit. You have fifteen (15) days from the final date of publication to appeal the order.

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**Autism Society hosts conference tomorrow**

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting a conference tomorrow, April 17, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort. The conference begins at 8am and ends at 4pm.

It will feature Tom Thornburgh of NMPASI, James Rayphand, NMPASI executive director; Lynn Corella and Mary McGee of PSS SPED, Mark Staal and Jerry Diaz of PSS Early Intervention, Erica Thornburgh of Koblerville Elementary School & Rebecca Flores of William S. Reyes School, and Vince Merfalen of ASCNMI.

The purpose of this conference is to help inform the community about autism and issues surrounding it locally, nationally and internationally. It is also to pull from the CNMI's local resources so that participants can access them. A participants' list will also be taken with contact information to help build a network in the CNMI for parents and others to use to access services or information pertaining to autism. For more information, contact (670) 234-8803/4 or e-mail as\_cnnmi@yahoo.com. (PR)

**Casino proposal, Covenant on Marianas Agupa**

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio is scheduled to be a special guest on the Marianas Agupa Chamorro Radio Talk show this Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 10am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010. Listeners of the talk show are encouraged to call in at 234-5929 and participate in the discussion.

Rep. Stanley Torres, author of a bill to revisit the Covenant, will also be a special guest on the show from 9:30am to 10am.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday between 9am to 11am. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. (PR)

**UOG recruitment drive on Rota, Tinian and Saipan**

The University of Guam will visit Rota, Tinian, and Saipan during the month of April as part of their annual recruitment drive. A team from UOG's Enrollment Management and Student Services will share information about admission procedures, financial aid, and academic programs with high school seniors and their parents during the following days and times:

April 16: Rota High School beginning at 9am

April 19: Saipan Multi-purpose Center at 6pm

April 20: Tinian High School beginning at 10am

Math and English placement tests will be administered at various CNMI high schools. For more information or to schedule a placement test at a high school in the CNMI, contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2292 or julieuh@uguam.ug.edu. For additional information on registration deadlines visit www.uog.edu/registrationinformation. (UoG)

**NMC Charter Day set; vendors invited**

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee has set the date of the celebration for May 7, 2010. It will be 29 years this April since NMC was first chartered.

The committee is inviting agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g., coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on April 26, 2010. Booth space is limited, so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

For application forms, requirements, or for more information, contact Alaysha Muna at 234-5498 Ext. 1300 or email alaysham@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

# 2010 models have arrived!

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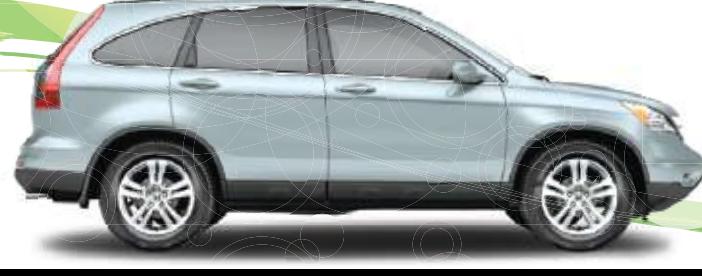


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Comfort, luxury and advance technology.

**i31 UP TO MPG\*\***



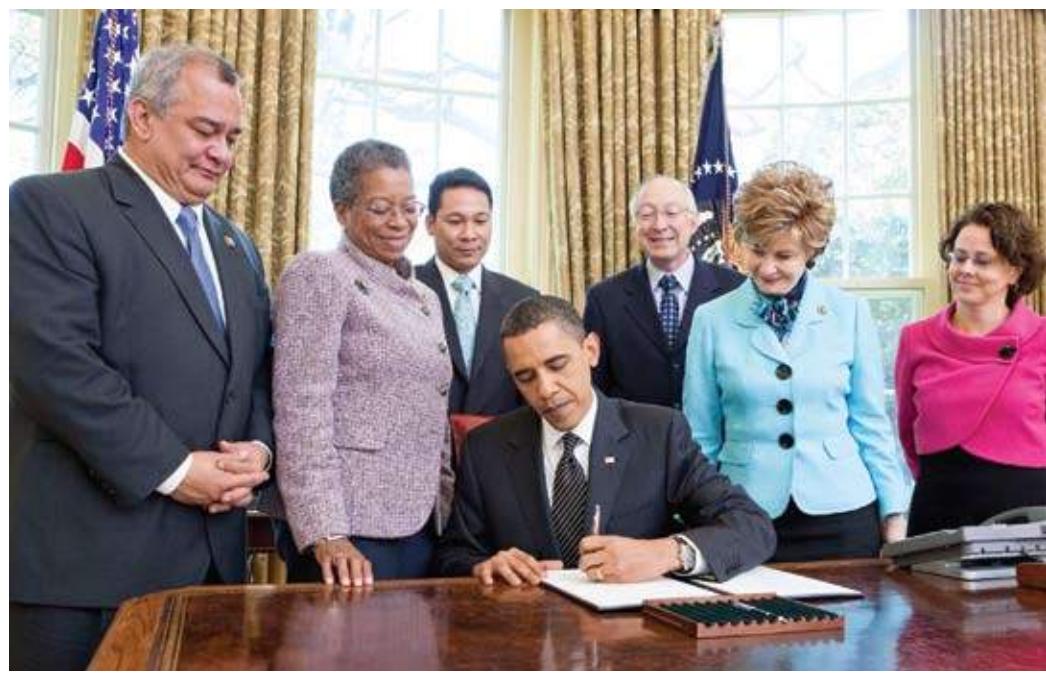
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# Obama signs executive order to strengthen IGIA



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY

President Barack Obama signed an executive order, strengthening the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs, in the Oval Office yesterday, in Washington, D.C. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan was there along with Donna Christensen of the Virgin Islands, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony Babauta, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Madeleine Bordallo of Guam, and Cecilia Muñoz, the President's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Salazar and Muñoz are now co-chairs of the IGIA.

## Legalizing pot: What can you say about it?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

From parents to government officials, everyone is invited to participate in a series of public hearings in early May on a bill to legalize marijuana use and possession in the CNMI for health and safety reasons.

The House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), met yesterday afternoon on Capitol Hill and set tentative dates for four public hearings on House Bill 17-47.

"We want to know what people think about the bill. They are welcome to voice their opinion, their concerns, their views about legalizing marijuana use and possession in the CNMI," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Two of the public hearings on Rep. Stanley Torres's (Ind-Saipan) bill will be on Saipan, and one each on Tinian and Rota. All hearings will start at 6:30pm.

On May 3, Monday, the public hearing will be held in the House of Representatives chamber on Capitol Hill.

On May 4, Tuesday, the public hearing will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

On Tinian, the public hearing will be held on May 5, Wednesday, tentatively at the Tinian Elementary School.

The public hearing on Rota will be on May 7, Friday, at the Rota Roundhouse.

"We have yet to send out notices. We will be inviting mayors, department secretaries, resident directors, parents, ranchers, college students, educators... practically everyone is invited. We are expecting a lot of people to attend. This is one bill that is going to entice participation from the public," Santos said.

Another bill—H.B. 17-38 or the Nuclear and Chemical Free Zone Amendment Act of 2010 introduced also by Torres—will be heard on these same schedules.

By removing the legal restrictions on marijuana, Torres said the quantity and supply of marijuana would diminish the crime and violence associated with attempts to obtain it or protect it by use of force and violence. He also pointed out the medicinal

use of marijuana as another reason for legalizing it.

He pointed out that medicinal marijuana is legal in at least 14 states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Other states also want to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. On Wednesday, for example, supporters of a medical marijuana initiative in Arizona submitted a petition to the secretary of state's office to qualify the proposal for the general election ballot in November.

The measure would allow people with certain medical conditions to have a small amount of marijuana if they have a doctor's recommendation.

An initiative to legalize marijuana in California also qualified for the November ballot. If voters approve it, the new law would allow Californians 21 or older to possess up to an ounce of marijuana for personal use. Adults would also be able to grow up to 25 square feet of pot per residence or parcel.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan joined other insular area representatives in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday as President Barack Obama signed an executive order increasing White House involvement in the Interagency Group on Insular Affairs. Also on hand for the signing were insular area representatives Madeleine Bordallo of Guam and Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Obama's executive order returns the IGIA to prominence in the White House. President Clinton created the Interagency Group in 1999 to co-ordinate federal policies regarding American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The group was co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, and the President's director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Mickey Ibarra.

A Bush Administration executive order in 2003 put the IGIA under the sole leadership of the Interior Secretary. Yesterday's executive order makes the Interior Secretary co-chair of the IGIA, along with the President's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

"Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and his Assistant Secretary Anthony Babauta are and, I am sure, will continue to be very good partners for the Northern Marianas and all the U.S. territories," said Sablan. "I am very pleased, however, to have the President underscore the importance of the Interagency

Group to his White House with this executive order. And I am particularly glad to have Cecilia Muñoz, the President's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, as an integral part of the leadership team.

"Ms. Muñoz played a vital role in assuring that the insular areas were included in health care reform. I expect that she will continue to be a good collaborator and strong advocate for the Northern Mariana Islands and all the U.S. territories in the IGIA."

The IGIA identifies issues of federal policy of concern to American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands and makes recommendations to the President on the application of those policies. (PR)

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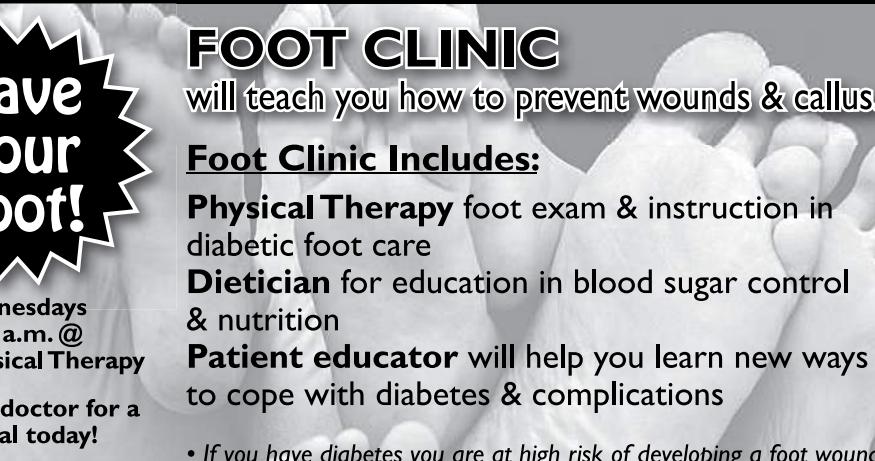
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# 241 attend Marianas seminar and workshop in Japan

Nearly 250 travel agents and media representatives in Japan learned destination details about the tropical Northern Mariana Islands during the annual Marianas Seminar and Workshop conducted last week by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA).

MVA conducted seminars in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya on April 6, 7 and 8, 2010, to provide details about the destination to Japanese professionals who sell and promote Saipan,

Tinian and Rota.

"As new agents come on line in Japan, it is important that we give them the proper training and tools to sell our destination," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "This is a chance for them to talk one-on-one with knowledgeable MVA specialists and attraction and hospitality stakeholders from Saipan, Tinian and Rota."

The seminars introduced new marketing plans, including upcoming campaigns and events.

The seminars detailed upcoming charter flights to the Northern Marianas during Japan's Golden Week holiday and flight schedule changes to facilitate connections from Japan to Rota through Guam. The MVA also updated attendees on their marketing strategies to stabilize air supply and implement separate campaigns targeting divers, children and seniors. Emphasis was also made on sporting activities available in the North-

ern Marianas, including Saipan Marathon, Saipan International Flipper Race, Marianas Coffee Trail Run, Tagaman Triathlon, XTERRA Saipan Championship, Rota Blue Triathlon and Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon. The MVA also touted Managaha's first place win in the "Best Beach and Snorkeling" category at Japan's Dive & Travel Awards for seven years in row.

The event was attended by 105 participants in Tokyo, 66

participants in Osaka, and 70 participants in Nagoya, all cities with direct flights to the Northern Marianas.

"The full recovery of our tourism industry is very dependent on Japanese tourists," said Tenorio. "Although we now have three daily flights from Tokyo, air service from Osaka is seasonal and we are beginning to see a similar pattern for Nagoya. This is not the ideal situation, but given the current situation we are grateful

for the airline support we have. We will continue to maintain our strong collaboration with the airlines and travel partners to increase travel demand to the Northern Mariana Islands from Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya."

In addition to attending large travel fairs with thousands of attendees, the MVA conducts the Marianas Seminar and Workshop to provide attendees with details in a more focused and personal setting. (MVA)



Pacific Development Inc. group package supervisor Motomu Goto presents the company's \$1,000 check donation to DARE to Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Ambrose Ogomoro during simple turnover rites at Hopwood Junior High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## PDI donates \$1,000 to DARE

Pacific Development Inc. recently donated \$1,000 to the Department of Public Safety's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program.

PDI group supervisor Motomu Goto presented the check donation to DPS acting commissioner Ambrose Ogomoro during simple turnover rites at Hopwood Junior High School.

Also present during the check presentation were Hopwood vice principal Natalie Hill and the school's DARE students.

Also in attendance were DARE coordinators Sgt. Joe Soares, Sgt. Tars Olopai, POI John Wabol, and Hopwood DARE instructor Officer Nathan Bermudes.

PDI director Gordon I. Marciano, meanwhile, extended his utmost appreciation to DPS Police Division and Fire Division for their continued support in the success of summer kids program the past five years.

"The program was designed to educate tourist and bring them a step closer to the CNMI's finest—the men and women in blue. We wanted our tourist to know that you should not be afraid to approach an officer or fireman; they are here to serve and provide assistance," he said.

Marciano said the fun part about the summer program is the reaction PDI agents elicit from tourists.

"When we announce our next stop is DPS they are shocked that we are actually taking them to the police station and the fire station. They get a kick out of sitting in a police car and fire truck, taking photos with CNMI's finest. They are astounded that could actually do that because in their country, you can't just walk up and take photos or talk to an officer. With that I say 'Well, welcome to the CNMI!—the friendliest destination,'" he said. (PR)

## Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

Join us this SATURDAY morning, APRIL 17, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

**LIVE HEALTHY:**  
Life Walk  
with  
**PSS!**

**Registration Information:**

**Saipan:** 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen Pavilion

**Tinian:** 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog’na Beach

**Rota:** 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

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PRICE INCLUDES: CPR & FIRST AID and ALL TEXTBOOKS & EQUIPMENT NEEDED

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\*\*\* SAIPAN,CNMI - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010  
Location: North Marianas College, Saipan

\*\*\* TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010  
Location: Holiday Resort - Tumon, Guam

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Master Course Schedule: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm

\*\*\* SAIPAN (\$400.00 Total) - STARTS: WEDNESDAY - MAY 12, 2010

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(Deposits for Saipan can be made with Captain Tenorio)

\*\*\*\* **GUAM:** Local Contact numbers are:  
**Captain Jerry Barcinas (671) 797-5365 or Captain Neri Blas (671) 727-3325**

\*\*\*\* **or call direct (Florida): Adams Marine Seminars: toll free # (877) 447-1950**  
(Deposits for Guam can be made in person at Guam Tropical Dive Station: Marine Drive, Across from Ace Hardware)

# 2010 Mazda 3 is hole-in-one prize in golf tourney

Triple J Motors recently reaffirmed its support of higher education in the CNMI by sponsoring a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming Northern Marianas College Foundation Annual Open Golf Tournament slated for Saturday, April 24, 2010. Anyone skilled and fortunate enough to nail a hole-in-one at hole No. 13 will be the new owner of the 2010 Mazda 3, which was presented to NMC Foundation officials yesterday.

"We have always supported the NMC Foundation and its efforts to raise funds for the college," said Randy Steele, general manager of Triple J Motors. "We are happy to be participating in this year's tournament as a hole-in-one prize sponsor."

The prize sponsorship was presented in support of the up-

coming 8th Annual Golf Foundation Open golf tournament, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We are grateful to Triple J Motors and its unwavering support of the NMC Foundation," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The company's prize sponsorship will no doubt help draw more golfers to participate in the tournament."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone post-secondary educational institution. The organization is composed of

individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

Saipan Lao Lao Bay Resort (West Course) will play host to the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010. Show time is 6am and shotgun start is 7am. Registration fee is \$95.

For sponsorship information or to register to play, contact 234-5498 extension 1050 or log on to the NMC website at [www.nmcnet.edu](http://www.nmcnet.edu). Registration forms can be obtained from the Web site or by visiting the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)



NMC

Ben Lizama of Triple J Motors, left, hands the keys to the 2010 Mazda 3 to NMC Foundation member Ivan Quichocho. The vehicle is part of Triple J's sponsorship of a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, slated for April 24, 2010, at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

## PSS opens search for Robert Byrd scholars

The Public School System announced yesterday the opening of its search for new recipients of the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, which provides up to \$6,000 to deserving students.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the search is open to high school students on all three islands, both private and public schools.

The scholarship is a four-year grant at \$1,500 per year, or \$6,000 total.

To be eligible for a Robert C. Byrd college scholarship, the applicant must meet some criteria which include the following: be a 2010 graduate of a public or private secondary school located in the CNMI; a legal resident of the CNMI; a U.S. citizen or national; have applied or been accepted for enrollment at a college or university; not be in default on any federal loan or obligation; (Moneth Deposa)

and filed with the college or university that they plan to attend, a statement of Selective Service Registration Status.

Sablan is encouraging senior students who meet the criteria to come to the PSS Federal Programs office to get the application packages.

She added that this scholarship is highly competitive: a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required.

Sablan said there should be, at a minimum, 15 of these highly competitive scholarships available to CNMI 2010 graduating seniors.

The deadline for submission of all applications and required documents is Friday, May 21, 2010. For interested applicants, they may contact PSS Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh at 237-3065.

## Joeten-Kiyu sets Bookmobile schedule

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is bringing its Bookmobile and Homework Center Services to children and parents in the community.

Its goal is to bring these services directly to students who are struggling with their homework and/or who are having difficulty accessing the library in order to have the opportunity to borrow books and related multimedia materials offsite in the villages.

The opportunity to integrate bookmobile and homework assistance services is part of the 2009 competitive grant that the library receives and will continue to reapply for.

Library rules and procedures will remain and will be applicable to all outreach services, including application for library cards by children through their parents or guardians, accessing library materials only through library cards, imposition of fines and fees for late, damaged,

or lost materials, registration to participate in availing homework assistance after school at each site, etc.

For further information, call the main telephone number at 235-READ (7323) or 235-7322.

Scheduled days and hours for the bookmobile:

- Mondays: The library is closed.
- Tuesday: 1pm-3pm, Tanapag Elementary School, 3-4:30pm GTC Elementary School

- Wednesday: 2pm-4pm, Division of Youth Services.

- Thursday: 1pm-3pm, Tanapag Elementary School; 3pm-5pm, San Roque Elementary School.

- Friday: 1pm-2:30pm, Koblerville Elementary School; 5pm-6:30pm, Puengin Inetnon at the Kagman Community Center.

- Saturday: 11am-1pm, Tanapag Youth Center.



## SPAM COOK-OFF

**Cook-Off Competition**  
Saturday  
May 15, 2010 at 7pm

**TASTE OF THE MARIANAS**  
(AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK)

Limit 10 contestants

### SPAM COOK-OFF OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

**1. Eligibility:** This Contest is open only to contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Contestants who participated and/or won previous SPAM Cook-Off events may enter again but must enter a new and original recipe. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employees of Dickerson & Quinn, Marianas Visitors Authority and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

**2. The SPAM® Cook-Off will be held at the Taste of the Marianas (American Memorial Park) on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 7pm and will be limited to ten (10) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, to the Dickerson & Quinn offices, CTSI Building, Sister Remedios Drive, Lower Base, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole, stew, stir-fry, salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 12-ounce can from the SPAM® family of products (any variety). Last daytime to submit entry forms and recipes is Monday, May 10, 2010 at 5pm.**

**3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not be restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives Dickerson & Quinn the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.**

**4. Each participating contestant will be given a SPAM™ T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.**

**5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 6:30pm on May 15, 2010. Any dishes brought in after 6:30pm will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 7:00pm. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates, crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. Dickerson & Quinn and the Marianas Visitors Authority will choose the judges.**

**6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will receive \$150 cash plus a \$150 SPAM™ gift basket. The second place winner will receive \$50 cash plus a \$100 SPAM™ gift basket. The third place winner will receive a \$50 SPAM™ gift basket.**

**Winner will receive \$150 cash plus a \$150 SPAM™ Gift Basket!**

### To Enter

### Categories

### Prizes

#### Print the following:

- your name
- address
- daytime phone number
- SPAM™ recipe

on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper and submit to Dickerson & Quinn offices, CTSI Building, Sister Remedios Drive, Lower Base, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. For more information call 322-2706.

#### Each contestant may enter only one recipe in one of the following categories:

- original appetizer
- casserole
- stew
- stir-fry
- salad
- sandwich

Each recipe entry must use at least one 12-ounce can of the SPAM® family of products.

#### Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

**1st place prize**  
\$150 cash plus a \$150 SPAM™ Gift Basket

**2nd place prize**  
\$50 cash plus a \$100 SPAM™ Gift Basket

**3rd place prize**  
\$50 SPAM™ Gift Basket

DICKERSON & QUINN  
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## Wiseman says gun his main concern in Aldan case

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman said his main concern in the case against Vicente T. Aldan is taking Aldan's gun off the streets.

"The gun in question here is a potential danger to the com-

munity and it is the duty of this court to do whatever it can under the law to protect the public's rights in this regard," said Wiseman in a written order.

In the five-page order, the judge granted Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham's

motion to withdraw the motion to vacate the plea agreement in Aldan's case that then assistant attorney general George Haselback had filed in court.

Wiseman also granted Buckingham's motion to order Aldan to show cause why

he should not be held in contempt of court for failing to turn over the gun.

In his written ruling issued yesterday, Wiseman said he decided to pursue a more viable method to achieve his ultimate goal of removing the handgun from the streets.

He believes the government's motion to show cause

for contempt is a proper motion to figure out the whereabouts of the gun.

"The court will pursue the Commonwealth's motion to show cause and hold Aldan in civil contempt if he fails to comply with this court's order to turn over the gun or to further provide information on the whereabouts of that gun,"

Wiseman said.

The 52-year-old Aldan was convicted in November 2009 of assaulting his former wife and was sentenced to six months in prison. He was ordered to surrender the firearm used in the commission of the crimes. To date, Aldan has failed to surrender the weapon. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Foremost gives 85 cases of milk to man'amko, CHC

Foremost Saipan recently donated 85 cases of Foremost Low Fat milk to the Office on Aging and the Commonwealth Health Center as part of its commitment to support a healthy lifestyle.

Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager of Ice Kiss Inc., which does business as Foremost Foods Saipan, said, "Milk is a vital part of healthy living. As we are supportive of wellness and healthy lifestyle, we would like to share this commitment with our elders at the *Man'amko* Center and the convalescing patients at CHC."

Loyola, along with Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan, visited the Office on Aging on April 14 to hand over 65 cases of low-fat milk.

Rose Mondala, director, Office on Aging, said, "We would like to thank Foremost for this donation of milk to our senior citizens. Milk is one of the things required, for these senior citizens to have at least 200 mg of milk every day. That is what we are giving for the home-

milk to about 200 elders daily.

Mondala said her office—sometimes referred to as the *Man'amko* Center—provides

it because it's good for them," Mondala added.

Close to a hundred congregates were on hand to receive milk packs.

At the Commonwealth Health Center, Joe Tudela, food super-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Foremost Foods Saipan distributed 65 cases of milk at the Office on Aging and 20 cases at the Commonwealth Health Center on April 14. At the Office on Aging were (from left) Felix Flawau, president, Manamko Council; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan; Rose Mondala, director, Office of Aging (Manamko Center); Terry Sorrosa, treasurer, Manamko Council; and Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Foremost Foods Saipan; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan; and Joe Tudela, food supervisor II for dietary unity, Commonwealth Health Center.

visor II for dietary unit, received 20 cases of low fat milk and expressed his appreciation for Foremost's generosity.

"We really appreciate this.

This is really nice of Foremost to donate milk to the patients. I am glad that you guys are doing this for the patients here and for the others," he said. (PR)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



RFP-10-014

### REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING 8-INCH PETROLEUM PIPELINE FOR CUC POWER PLANT NOS.: 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting proposals to completely design and conduct engineering (phase 1) and replace (phase 2) the existing CUC fuel transfer pipeline to the power plant 1 & 2 at Lower Base, Saipan. The options required are (a) to have an extension to the port for direct tanker transfer and (b) to have the complete pipeline installation, underground.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:00p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, until April 12, 2010.

One (1) original and five (5) copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-10-014, Replacement of Existing 8-inch Petroleum Pipeline for CUC power Plant Nos. 1 & 2**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 20, 2010** at 10:00 AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. CUC reserves the right to reject any proposal received after that time. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations, § 50-50-225 (Competitive Sealed Proposals).

A mandatory Pre-proposal conference followed by a Site Visit will be arranged for this project on **March 30, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.** local time at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant I Administration Bldg. The prospective proposers are required to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety of proposal security or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a Copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wages, prevailing through the period of contract as indicated in the web page <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

CUC is seeking proposers who have qualifications and experience in installing petroleum pipelines in accordance with 49 CFR regulations other relevant standards including the American Petroleum Institute (API). Contractors are advised that proposals with any conditions or exceptions to the terms of this Request for Proposal (RFP) and failure to supply or respond to any clarification of proposal upon request in a timely manner shall be cause to reject their proposal. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Contract will be awarded to the party submitting the most responsive proposal, and who is determined by CUC to be best qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily, and to meet all other requirements thereof. CUC reserves the rights, nevertheless, to accept a proposal other than the lowest, if it determines that CUC's interest will be best served by doing so, or to reject any and all proposals or parts of proposals received.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **April 14, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, procurement and Supply Manager, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net). Procurement Assistant Ms. Beck Grimes - [becky@cucgov.net](mailto:becky@cucgov.net) and Mr. Venu Prabhakar, Power Generation Engineering Manager - [venu@cucgov.net](mailto:venu@cucgov.net). CUC will respond to any questions and clarification only to prospective proposers who have registered to the solicitation.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA  
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

### INVITATION TO BID ITB10-GOV-087

#### Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building and Elevator Installation Project

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Building and Elevator Installation Project, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Wednesday, April 07, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 14, 2010 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB10-GOV-087**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 27, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time April 27, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 27, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 06, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 06, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on April 27, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF

# Local pineapples are nearly ready for harvest



The Zoning Board poses with representatives from The Department of Public Lands (back row-center) and the Department of Public Works (seated) after their workshop to review the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Other agencies present, but not pictured were representatives from Coastal Resources Management, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

## Zoning finishes up workshop sessions

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Zoning Office met with local permitting agencies during its last workshop Wednesday afternoon to review issues and concerns relating to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law as part of plans to update the law.

Representatives from the Department of Public Works, Coastal Resource Management Office, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Public Lands were present for the collaboration effort.

During the meeting the Zoning board pointed out some overlapping areas between the agencies in an attempt to improve the efficiency of the permitting process for applicants.

The Zoning board encouraged the agencies to work on improving the reviewing processes to avoid duplication of work.

The Zoning board also familiarized agencies with their new preliminary inquiry forms and urged them to increase communication between agencies and take advantage of the technological capabilities within various agencies.

Other issues raised included discussions of a temporary structure being used as business in the tourist zoning area near the beachfront properties in Garapan, the new parking and signage specifications that, as of Feb. 1, 2008, are now required for all new businesses, and the importance of preventing structures from obstructing the right of way of public roads.

In order for the new beachfront proprietor to operate within conformance of the new law, the temporary structure must be removed daily and reassembled the next business day.

All of the other businesses in the area existed before Feb. 1,

2008, and are allowed to operate in their older nonconforming structures because they have registered with zoning as a grandfathered, nonconforming establishment.

The workshop displayed examples of nonconforming parking spaces and business signs and explained why the new law requires the new specifications. Many of the examples showed buildings that were built too close to the road and thus were in obstruction of the right of way. Other examples showed businesses with poorly constructed signs and cluttered windows.

"Our island only has so much real estate and with tourism being our main industry, it is important that we improve the aesthetic beauty of our surroundings. These efforts are for all of our best interest because they promote a healthy lifestyle and a safer environment," said Zoning officer Anicia Tomokane.

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

People should be seeing pineapples of the local Saipan variety in stores and markets very soon as harvest season for pineapples lasts from April through June, according to local farmer Christian Guerrero.

Guerrero tends to a fruit and vegetable farm with about 2,000 pineapple plants of three different species.

In addition to the local Saipan specie, Guerrero grows Hawaiian and Taiwanese pineapple varieties. The local pineapple is of Spanish descent and is the first variety of the three to become ready for harvest.

Lighter in color, local pineapples are also believed to be

the sweetest taste of the three varieties.

According to Guerrero, local pineapples grow faster and more consistently in size. They also grow more abundantly than the other species as they have been known to grow up to six pineapples on one plant.

The Hawaiian and Taiwanese varieties, while still sweet and delicious when fresh, are not considered as sweet as the local Saipan pineapples. The spines on the outside of Hawaiian pineapples are a darker green than the local specie, while Taiwanese pineapples have a red tint to their spines and stripes on their leaves. The foreign varieties are also more sensitive to cultivation conditions and require more care to

achieve fruition, according to Guerrero.

"I don't have to water the local pineapples; they've been growing on their own and keep multiplying from year to year," said Guerrero.

Guerrero sells his fresh pineapples to local stores, restaurants, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Aging Center, and at the Sabalu Farmer's Market.

"Imported pineapples sell for \$1.69 a pound and I offer fresh, locally grown, pineapples for only \$1 a pound. My local pineapples are becoming ready right now, and when they're gone, I'll still have the Hawaiian and Taiwanese varieties ready by then. Everything will be gone by August," said Guerrero.



Christian Guerrero showcases his pineapple field at his farm.



### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc. has named Alvarado Rafaelito, center, as its employee of the month for February. Rafaelito is shown here with his supervisor, Danny Lapeceros, and operation manager Moises K Pangelinan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Greg Ommo Tebit, who is celebrating his third birthday today! Love, Mommy, Daddy and your families.



### EUROPE TOUR

Fifteen individuals participated in a tour of Europe during Holy Week. The participants were from Guam and Saipan. From Saipan are Mako Torres, Beck Seman, Sue Guerrero, and Mary Pangelinan. This group photo was taken in front of St. Peter's Basilica with tour guide Roberta and travel agent Mario Celes. The group also visited Fatima, the Sistine Chapel, the house of Bernadita, Francisco, and Jacinta, and more.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Business

## Docomo Pacific launches Ringback Tones on Saipan, Guam

In its ongoing commitment to provide innovative mobile communication services, Docomo Pacific will be launching Ringback Tones today, April 16.

Initially available for postpaid Docomo Pacific customers, Ringback Tones will also be offered to prepaid custom-

ers within the next few weeks.

A Ringback Tone, also known as Audible Ringing Tone, is the personalized song or sound that is heard by the caller after dialing a number. With Ringback Tones, subscribers have the option to customize the sound that in-

coming callers will hear rather than just the standard ringing currently heard on most calls.

Ringback Tones run the range of simple to complex depending on preference of the subscriber. Subscribers can designate a default sound or message to play for all callers

while simultaneously assigning other sounds or messages to play for specific individuals in their address book. Selection of Ringtones can be set up or modified with all individual callers or groups.

Docomo Pacific subscribers can sign up as a monthly

Pay-As-You-Go subscription allowing ringbacks to be purchased and downloaded separately throughout the month. Bundled subscriptions are also offered giving subscribers monthly credits and additional savings when purchasing Ringback Tones. (*Docomo*)

## New tax breaks cause confusion, enforcement issues

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—New tax breaks enacted last year are causing confusion for taxpayers and enforcement problems for the Internal Revenue Service, according to a government report issued Thursday, the deadline for filing individual returns.

As of March 5, the IRS erroneously gave out \$24.2 million in Making Work Pay tax credits, according to the report by J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration. The IRS issued a total of \$25 billion worth of the credits during the period, for an error rate of less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

The IRS also erroneously issued about \$4.7 million in tax credits meant for people who

bought plug-in electric cars. The new tax breaks were enacted as part of the massive economic recovery package passed last year.

"Our report concludes that the IRS is having a mixed filing season this year," George said. "On the one hand, they are having difficulty implementing many of the changes created by the passage of the laws designed to stimulate the economy. On the other hand, the news is not all bad as the IRS is detecting and stopping more erroneous refunds this year."

The report covers returns processed as of March 5. At the time, the IRS had received about 61 million returns. The agency expects to receive about 140 million individual returns this year.



Elaine Scholtz waves at cars in front of Liberty Tax Service in Laconia, N.H., Wednesday. The deadline for filing taxes is Thursday.

"Any time you have major tax changes you will see some confusion over it," said IRS

spokesman Terry Lemons. The IRS is doing "everything we can" to work through problems

and process returns quickly.

The stimulus package enacted last year presented many challenges for taxpayers and the IRS, making an already complicated tax system even more complex. There were tax credits for qualified families who buy new homes or make energy improvements to existing ones, as well as tax breaks to help pay college tuition or buy new cars.

The Making Work Pay tax credit was President Barack Obama's signature tax break in the package. It provides individuals with up to \$400 and couples up to \$800.

The homebuyer tax credit was so popular that Congress extended and expanded it in November. Buyers who have owned their current homes at least five years are eligible, subject to income limits, for tax credits of up to \$6,500. First-time homebuyers—or people who haven't owned homes in the previous three years—can get up to \$8,000. To qualify, buyers have to sign purchase agreements before May 1 and close before July 1.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### China's economic growth surges but inflation low

**SHANGHAI** (AP)—China's economic growth surged to 11.9 percent in the first quarter, possibly giving Beijing room to allow its currency to rise, but analysts warned it faces growing pressure to cut back stimulus and keep the world's third-largest economy from overheating. The strong performance reported Thursday might allow a loosening of politically volatile currency controls by offsetting possible losses in export industries. Analysts expect Beijing to allow the yuan to rise some time this year, though President Hu Jintao and others have rejected U.S. and other foreign pressure for a change, saying China will move at its own pace. Consumer prices increased 2.2 percent in the first quarter over a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said, well below the government's ceiling of 3 percent for the year. That eased pressure on Beijing for immediate interest rate hikes or other steps to cool the boom.

#### Asian stocks mostly gain on China economic growth

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Asian stock markets mostly gained Thursday after China reported strong first quarter economic growth and earnings from JP-Morgan Chase & Co exceeded expectations. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average led gainers, rising 72.14 points, or 0.7 percent, to 11,277.04. India's benchmark index also advanced 0.4 percent, Indonesia gained 0.5 percent while Hong Kong and Singapore added 0.4 percent. South Korea and Australia rose 0.1 percent while China and Malaysia were little changed. Equity investors took heart from signs of strong economic growth in Asia. China said its gross domestic product grew 11.9 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier while Singapore's economy jumped 13 percent from a year ago.

#### Oil rises above \$86 amid Asian, US demand growth

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices rose above \$86 a barrel Thursday in Asia amid signs global crude demand is growing. Benchmark crude for May delivery was up 25 cents to \$86.09 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added \$1.79 to settle at \$85.84 on Wednesday. Crude investors were encouraged by signs of strong economic growth in Asia. China said Thursday its gross domestic product grew 11.9 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier while Singapore's economy jumped 13 percent from a year ago.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP10-CHC-092**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 14, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"MEDICAL/DENTAL BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES FOR CLARIFICATION IS DUE ON **MAY 04, 2010 OF BUSINESS** AND SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. ESTHER L. MUNA, MHA, CPC AT TEL. (670) 234-8950, BY FAX TO (670) 234-8930 OR VIA E-MAIL AT [elmspn@aol.com](mailto:elmspn@aol.com)

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP10-DEQ-094**

**SUBMISSION: MAY 18, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE I AND PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF TWO POTENTIAL LEAKING UNDER-GROUND STORAGE TANK SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER APRIL 16, 2010 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO [maxsimian@deq.gov.mp](mailto:maxsimian@deq.gov.mp)

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **MAY 04, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205). QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. MAX SIMIAN, GEOLOGIST, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL AT [maxsimian@deq.gov.mp](mailto:maxsimian@deq.gov.mp) NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **MAY 07, 2010**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN  
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB10-DOC-090**

**CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010**

**TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"RETROFITTING OF EXISTING PARKING LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) LAMPS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA"**

COPIES OF THE BID PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE QUICK PRINT AND POST FOR A NOMINAL REPRODUCTION FEE, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON OR AFTER APRIL 12, 2010.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 10 AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH, ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLON  
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD  
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Iros, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 3pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

- AGENDA**
- I. Meeting Call to Order
  - II. Determination of Quorum
  - III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (3/2/10)
  - V. Chairperson's Report
  - VI. Director's Report
  - VII. Investigator's Report
  - VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
  - IX. Old Business:
  - A. Draft Regulations
  - B. FSMB Membership
  - X. New Business:
  - A. New Businesses and Advertisements
  - XI. Applications for Board's Review
  - A. New/Renew Applications
  - B. Pending Applications
  1. Mr. Cho - Acupuncturist
  - XII. Miscellaneous Business:
  - XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  - A. Dr. Ramsey
  - B. Dr. Macris
  - XIV. Announcements
  - A. Financial Disclosure Statements Due May
  - B. Next Meeting Date
  - XV. Adjournment of Meeting
  - /s/ Dr. Janet McCullough  
Chairperson

magazine warned against buying the 2010 Lexus GX 460 for possible roll-over problems, the Japanese automaker said Thursday.

But Toyota Motor Corp., plagued by a spate of recalls since October last year, said it had not yet decided whether to recall the GX 460, sold mainly in North America but also in the Middle East, Russia and some other nations. Some Japanese media reported Toyota was considering a recall.

Toyota stopped selling the GX 460 in North America temporarily Tuesday within hours of the Consumer Reports warning, acting relatively quickly to the report after being criticized as slow in responding to consumer complaints on faulty gas pedals, defective floor mats and braking software glitches.

Toyota officials in Tokyo said the company was carrying out tests that were as close to those by Consumer Reports as possible.

Toyota has said that it does not yet know what the possible problems could be, but was working on it so that Consumer Reports would be able to retest the GX 460 and give it a satisfactory rating.

Consumer Reports, widely read by many car buyers because of its reputation as fair, has raised red flags over Toyo-

tas previously. In January, the magazine pulled its "recommended" rating on eight vehicles recalled by the automaker due to faulty gas pedals.

For the GX 460, Consumer Reports said the problem occurred during tests on its track. In a standard test, the driver approached a turn unusually fast, then released the accelerator pedal to simulate the response of an alarmed driver. This caused the rear of the vehicle to slide outward.

Under normal circumstances, the electronic stability control should quickly correct the loss of control and keep the SUV on its intended path.

But with the GX 460, the stability control took too long to adjust, which could cause a rollover accident if one of the sliding wheels were to strike the curb or another obstacle, according to Consumer Reports.

Toyota said it sold about 6,000 of the GX 460 worldwide. The manufacturer behind the Prius hybrid and Camry sedan makes a wide range of sport-utility vehicles, including the RAV4, Land Cruiser and 4Runner.

Since October, Toyota has recalled more than 8 million vehicles worldwide and has promised to be more transparent and responsive to consumer complaints.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



**NOTICE AS TO BOND CLAIMS  
2008 AND PRIOR YEAR CASES**

**April 16, 2010, First Notice**

**April 23, 2010, Second Notice**

**COMPLAINANTS IN LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES FILED IN 2008 AND PRIOR YEARS:**

Each of the complainants listed below registered with the Department of Labor a bond claim with respect to an administrative order that was not paid by an employer.

All of the bond claims registered with respect to any 2008 or prior year case which are collectible from a bonding company have been adjudicated by a hearing officer and an order has been issued. The processing of all of the bond claims registered with respect to 2009 cases will be completed shortly. The Department of Labor has completed these cases in response to a court decision, which the Department believes is not a correct interpretation of the law.

The claims registered by the persons listed below have been determined to be uncollectible in whole or in part from any bonding company. There are several reasons for this: (1) the work done may have been illegal, in which case there was no bond submitted by the employer; (2) the bonding company may have gone out of business or become insolvent; (3) the bond issued to the employer may not have covered the full amount of the administrative award because bonds typically cover only three months of wages and some claims involved a longer time period of non-payment; or (4) there may be other defects in the claim.

Although these claims cannot be collected from a bonding company, there remains a possibility that they may still be collectible from the employer or other responsible person. The Department of Labor has referred each of these claims to the Attorney General's Office because the Department is represented in the courts by the Attorney General. Assistant Attorney General Eli Golob is in charge of determining whether these claims can be collected through court action. If the employer or other responsible person is (1) no longer in the Commonwealth; (2) has declared bankruptcy; or (3) has no assets from which the claim can be collected, then the Assistant Attorney General may determine that no court action is warranted. If Assistant Attorney General Golob determines that court action is warranted, then the necessary court action will be brought to pursue the claim. However, the limited resources of the Attorney General's Office due to budget reductions may cause this work to be delayed.

There are alternatives to waiting for the Attorney General's Office to pursue a claim. Under the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010, which became effective on March 22, 2010, foreign national workers now have a private right of action with respect to unpaid wage claims. Any of the persons listed below may now bring an action in Small Claims Court against the employer or any other responsible person. The Administrative Hearing Office at the Labor Department has a Small Claims Packet containing instructions as to how to do this. Alternatively, any of the persons listed below may notify Assistant Attorney General Golob that they consent to the assignment of the claim by the Office of the Attorney General to a lawyer in private practice so that, with an arrangement on fees, the claim might be pursued more expeditiously.

Name	LIDS No.	Case No.	Employer
Abadilla, Ariel	103741	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Abaygar, Zenaida	112336	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Abiendo, Alicia	118359	BC No.09-040	Maria Estrella Pelisamen
Ahmed, Sohel	174669	BC No. 09-001	Kinship Ent. Inc.
Alvaro, Edilberto C.	176210	BC No.09-039	An Da International Corp.
Aque, Diosdade	127284	BC No. 09-004	NET Corporation
Ararao, Jimy	141131	BC No.09-072	Maribeths Corporation
Baing, Ambrocio	125774	BC No. 09-001	Kinship Ent. Inc.
Baltazar, Luzviminda	103094	BC No.09-072	Maribeths Corporation
Bautista, Alexander	126099	BC No. 09-017	All Around Security Inc.
Bernido, Marlon	117288	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Briones, Warlito	110861	BC No.09-052	Zambi Corporation
Cabalza, Lucille	105411	BC No. 09-008	J.D.H. Corp dba MGM VI
Capina, Araceli	205332	BC No.09-081	World Apparel, Inc.
Casapao, Juliana	282743	BC No. 09-003	Moonlight Shopping
Chai, Feng Qi	122465	BC No.09-048	World Apparel, Inc.
Che, Gang Hui	285558	BC No.09-041	Poong In SPN Inc.
Chen, Feifei	280154	BC No.09-035	William Dela Rosa
Chen, Jianhua	190921	BC No. 09-014	JSJ Corporation
Chen, Yanqin	155057	BC No. 09-015	CWM Inc.
Chen, Zhihong	152632	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Dabu, Juanito	120891	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Dacucos, Imelda	182520	BC No.09-047	Wall Street Empire Inc.
Delos Santos, Mercedes	120755	BC No.09-071	Tonette's Corp.
Delos Santos, Yolanda	123949	BC No.09-037	World Apparel, Inc.
Deng, Lifang	157411	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Ding, Guozheng	197862	BC No. 09-027	Poong In SPN Inc.
Doctolero, Adela	285833	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Drilon, Ariel Atayne	188829	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Ellosa, Rolando	103913	BC No.09-069	Pantaleon B. Valenzuela
Enriquez, Ricardo	288010	BC No. 09-029	Erensia Inc.
Fan, Chunyan	197104	BC No.09-064	K & K Corporation
Fang, Juanping	285221	BC No.09-055	LY & Z American Corporation
Felipe, Josephine	163805	BC No. 09-023	Joo Ang Apparel Inc.
Fernando, Feminencio	110776	BC No.09-053	Antonio A. Benavente dba Benavente Security Agency and Island Protection Service
Gamelo, Felizardo	122980	BC No. 09-019	Manny Villaga
Genobaten, Edgar	195214	BC No. 09-074	Sy's Corporation
Gong, Zhenpei	190925	BC No. 09-014	JSJ Corporation
Gu, Jianhua	310442	BC No.09-051	Yong Cheng Corp.
Guatam, Kamala	204114	BC No. 09-025	Rios, Emilia T.
Hu, Guihua	287734	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Huang, Fengxia	171405	BC No. 09-016	Chen Gang Corporation
Huang, Haibin	171408	BC No.09-050	Yong Jia Corp.
Huang, Ruiang	202259	BC No. 09-020	Sako Corporation
Huang, Ruiang	202259	BC No.09-083	LY & Z American Corp.
Isidro, Rommel	186879	BC No. 09-005	Angel's International School of Dance Inc.
Isidro, Ryan	186786	BC No. 09-005	Angel's International School of Dance Inc.
Jin, Caiping	181883	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Jin, Chengquan	298356	BC No.09-061	Dragon Corporation
Khan, MD Leakat Ali	125268	BC No. 09-026	Edward Ayuyu
Lacson, Bernabe	143668	BC No. 09-004	NET Corporation
Li, A Wu	115605	BC No.09-085	T & B International, Inc.
Li, Changjun	141208	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Li, Guanzhi	157413	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.

Name	LIDS No.	Case No.	Employer
Li, Ji Di	166547	BC No.09-045	Far Ocean Corporation
Li, Ji Di	166547	BC No.09-065	Far Ocean Corporation
Li, Qian De	143388	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Li, Xiangrong	174085	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Li, Xinying	164273	BC No.09-059	Sam Marianas Inc.
Li, Yanxia	190669	BC No.09-042	Poong In SPN Inc.
Lin, Meidan	138317	BC No.09-067	L & K Intl. Inc.
Liu, Ai Min	143364	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Liu, Shunli	282010	BC No. 09-009	Mariana Fashions Inc.
Liu, Yan	166308	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Long, Xiaohong	281431	BC No.09-066	K & K Corporation
Luo, Cheng	113446	BC No.09-043	Zhong Ming Corporation
Magtapat, Ruperto	123560	BC No. 09-002	JG Sablan Ice & Water Co. Inc.
Manalang, Nelia	294425	BC No. 09-047	Wall Street Empire Inc.
Manlangit, Ely	136136	BC No.09-044	Pacific Utility & Comm. Inc.
Marcelo, Rodolfo	110668	BC No. 09-028	Barbara Yamada dba Bobbies Amusement Co. Inc.
Millare, Bernadeth	293438	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Nagpacan, Edwin	111541	BC No. 09-007	Bien Sieko Inc. & Isagani Benoza
Obra, Renita	196251	BC No. 09-022	Pete W. Onni
Pagdato, Marticio	111100	BC No. 09-012	Felipina A. Sablan
Pulido, Marilou	128752	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Qian, Meiling	194838	BC No.09-077	Song Yong Jun dba Banana Karaoke
Qian, Xiaoli	201225	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Qu, Yueping	297610	BC No.09-063	Hans Corporation
Quiroz, Dindo	203491	BC No.09-078	Alexander M. Castro dba Alcast Co.
Ramos, Gracita	280117	BC No.09-068	American Joint Part Corp Ent. Ltd.
Saludes, Meriam	302390	BC No. 09-013	Juan L. Evangelista
Shen, Yuanneng	287300	BC No.09-057	K & K Corporation
Song, Liwei	155135	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Song, Liwei	155135	BC No.09-058	World Apparel, Inc.
Su, Guowei	281552	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Sun, Maomei	194198	BC No.09-075	Trans Asia GMT Forte Corp.
Valdez, Edgar	106684	BC No.09-044	Pacific Utility & Comm. Inc.
Viray, Mary Ann	120641	BC No.09-082	World Apparel, Inc.
Wang, Yasu	190465	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Wei, Yanlin	170224	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Wei, Yanlin	170224	BC No.09-062	World Apparel, Inc.
Wu, Xiaowen	194847	BC No.09-036	Mirage SPN Co. Ltd.
Wu, Yanmei	121548	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Xiao, Delai	200144	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Xing, Xuebin	281829	BC No.09-054	Far Ocean Corporation
Xu, Que Hua	139935	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Xu, Shujian	149583	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yang, Fengxiang	154216	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yang, Hanju	118363	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Yue, Junfang	292546	BC No. 09-018	Rifu Apparel Corp.
Zeng, Shunlin	297211	BC No.09-050	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Chunmei	135682	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Hui	286180	BC No.09-041	Poong In SPN Inc.
Zhang, Meihua	190248	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zhang, Xuehua	176083	BC No. 09-034	Yong Jia Corp.
Zheng, Guohua	155707	BC No.09-056	Zhang's Enterprises, Ltd.
Zhi, Yabin	298893	BC No. 09-030	L & S Apparel Corp.
Zhou, Ren	120913	BC No. 09-006	Far Ocean Corporation
Zhou, Tiegang	294128	BC No.09-046	Santos, Jesus

# Nation

## Poll: Obama slips, other Dems slide, too

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama's national standing has slipped to a new low after his victory on the historic health care overhaul, even in the face of growing signs of economic revival, according to the latest Associated Press-GfK poll.

The survey shows the political terrain growing rockier for Obama and congressional Democrats heading into midterm elections, boosting Republican hopes for a return to power this fall.

Just 49 percent of people now approve of the job Obama's doing overall, and less than that—44 percent—like the way he's handled health care and the economy. Last September, Obama hit a low of 50 percent in job approval before ticking a bit higher. His high-water mark

as president was 67 percent in February of last year, just after he took office.

The news is worse for other Democrats. For the first time this year, about as many Americans approve of congressional Republicans as Democrats—38 percent to 41 percent—and neither has an edge when it comes to the party voters want controlling Congress. Democrats also have lost their advantage on the economy; people now trust both parties equally on that, another first in 2010.

Roughly half want to fire their own congressman.

Adding to Democratic woes, people have grown increasingly opposed to the health care overhaul in the weeks since it became law; 50 percent now oppose it, the most negative measure

all year. People also have a dim view of the economy though employers have begun to add jobs, including 162,000 in March. Just as many people rated the economy poor this month—76 percent—as did last July.

And it could get worse for Democrats: One-third of those surveyed consider themselves tea party supporters, and three-quarters of those people are overwhelmingly Republicans or right-leaning independents. That means they are more likely to vote with the GOP in this fall's midterms, when energized base voters will be crucial amid the typical low turnout of a non-presidential election year.

With the electorate angry, Republicans enthusiastic and Democrats seemingly less so, Obama's party increas-

ingly fears it could lose control of the House, if not the Senate, in his first midterms. The GOP, conversely, is emboldened as voters warm to its opposition to much of the president's agenda.

On the minds of Democrats and Republicans alike: the Democratic bloodletting in 1994, when the GOP seized control of Congress two years after Bill Clinton was elected president. But the less-dispiriting news for Democrats is that it's only April—a long way to November in politics.

Still, persuading change-minded voters to keep the status quo will be no easy task given that most people call details of the health care overhaul murky and that the unemployment rate is unlikely to fall below 9 percent by November.

### Holder says US still hopes to take bin Laden alive

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Under pressure from Republican critics, Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday the U.S. still hopes to capture and interrogate Osama bin Laden but expects the al-Qaida leader won't be taken alive.

Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the attorney general was peppered with questions about terrorism issues, including the planned shutdown of the Guantanamo Bay detention center and where those suspects should be sent for trial. The hearing didn't have the confrontations that marked his appearance last month before House lawmakers, however.

During the earlier hearing, questions about what legal rights might be

granted to suspected terrorists led Holder to tell lawmakers the chances of capturing the al-Qaida leader alive were very slim and "we will be reading Miranda rights to the corpse of Osama bin Laden."

On Wednesday Holder again tried to deflect hypothetical questions about what would happen were bin Laden taken alive.

The committee's senior Republican, Jeff Sessions of Alabama, insisted the U.S. needs a policy on how to handle bin Laden, particularly whether he should be read his Miranda rights—including the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney.

Holder said there would be no need to read bin Laden his rights if captured, because the warning is only legally required to allow the use of incriminating statements made by suspects after they are caught. In bin Laden's case, Holder said, there is a wealth of incriminating evidence making further statements unnecessary to convict him.

"We have sufficient information, statements from bin Laden, so that there is no reason to Mirandize him at all, and you can still bring his case," Holder said.



President Barack Obama meets with congressional leaders to discuss Wall Street reform, Wednesday, April 14, 2010, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington. From left are, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Md., House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., the president, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Prosecutors charge 1 in fatal Okla. mall shooting

**MUSKOGEE, Okla.** (AP)—Prosecutors have charged a teenager with first-degree murder for a shooting at an Oklahoma shopping mall that left a 17-year-old dead and five others wounded. Sixteen-year-old Michael Mayberry also was charged Wednesday with five counts of assault and battery with a deadly weapon. Muskogee County Special Judge Robin Adair ordered Mayberry held without bond and appointed a capital public defender to his case. Calls to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System weren't immediately returned late Wednesday. Mayberry was one of three people arrested Monday in the shooting at the Arrowhead Mall in Muskogee on Saturday that killed 17-year-old Jerrod Reed. Police Cpl. Pedro Zardeneta says authorities believe the shooting was gang related.

#### NJ school: We didn't tell your boys to cross-dress

**MAPLE SHADE, N.J.** (AP)—A teacher's explanation to parents of a women's history project planned for her third-graders contained these words: "If your child is a young man, he does not have to wear a dress or skirt." That didn't stop a parent and a blogger from complaining that little boys were being asked to cross-dress as part of the "gay agenda." From there, the Maude Wilkins School's project about the evolution of women's clothing quickly took on a life of its own—and now it's been called off completely. "In hindsight," Superintendent Michael Livengood said Wednesday, "maybe a different activity could have been chosen that was a little bit more relevant to history." It's the second time in six months that a New Jersey school program has attracted wide attention for something officials say was planned innocently. About 70 protesters visited a Burlington County school in October, upset about a song in which students praised President Barack Obama.

#### Gov orders inspections for 200 W.Va. coal mines

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** (AP)—Gov. Joe Manchin on Wednesday ordered the immediate inspection of all underground coal mines in West Virginia after an explosion last week killed 29 miners and injured two. Manchin also asked for the state's more than 200 underground coal mines to cease production Friday to mourn the victims of the nation's worst coal mining disaster in 40 years. "I don't know any better way to honor the miners we've lost and the families who are grieving so much," Manchin said. Manchin wants the miners to show up for work, but to help check on safety instead of producing coal. "If they don't go to work, they're not honoring our fallen heroes," Manchin said. "I don't think there will be a mine or a miner that won't honor those fallen heroes."

## Obama, GOP wrangle over Wall Street regulations

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The White House and congressional Republicans sparred Wednesday over how to protect taxpayers against "too big to fail" financial institutions, sharply disagreeing on whether legislation backed by President Barack Obama would leave the government on the hook for bailing out firms whose failure might threaten the economy.

Obama, meeting with House and Senate leaders of both parties, insisted on a tough bill, specifically singling out oversight of previously unregulated financial instruments. How to regulate these products, known as derivatives, has become the latest point of friction between Democrats and Republicans.

But as the Senate prepares to begin debate in less than two weeks on legislation revamping regulation of the financial industry, the question of bailouts has elevated the sharp partisan differences over

how to respond to the 2008 crisis that caused a near meltdown on Wall Street.

Both sides were testing populist messages, seizing on public disdain for big financial institutions. The White House argued opposition to the bill amounted to support for Wall Street banks; Republicans countered that the Obama-backed bill would perpetuate bailouts for Wall Street firms rather than end them.

Obama, speaking briefly to reporters before the closed meeting began, said he was "absolutely confident that the bill that emerges is going to be a bill that prevents bailouts. That's the goal."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner later said that the cost of taking down large failing financial institutions will be borne by big banks, not taxpayers. The House and Senate bills call for funds, financed by large financial institutions, to cover the costs of liquidating firms deemed too large to go through

bankruptcy proceedings. Republicans have argued that the funds would not be sufficient and that taxpayers could still be on the hook to pay to deal with giant failures. They also argue that emergency loan authority by the Federal Reserve could also amount to a financial bailout.

The give-and-take, which officials said was more heated in public than in private, set the terms for the final debate on yet another of Obama's priorities.

The president is hoping the Senate acts quickly and passes a bill that can be easily reconciled with legislation that passed the House in December. But Democrats need at least one Republican to overcome procedural hurdles and the looming question was whether the administration and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid would simply seek to pick off Republican senators or build a coalition through bipartisan negotiations.

## Officials: Cops coerced boys in NJ gang-rape case

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—The two youngest boys charged with gang-raping a 7-year-old girl last month may have been pressured into confessing and implicating others in the case, according to two people with firsthand knowledge of the police interrogations.

Two men—20-year-old Gregory Leary and 19-year-old Timear Lewis—and three boys, ages 13, 14 and 17, have

been charged with rape at the March 28 party. The girl's sister, who police say sold her to the men during a party in a vacant apartment, was charged with promoting prostitution, aggravated sexual assault and other crimes. Four days after the party, the 13- and 14-year-old who live near the gritty public housing complex where police say the assault took place were brought in for questioning.

Kevin Main, who represents the 17-year-old and who has reviewed the police interrogations of the boys and the 15-year-old girl, told The Associated Press that investigators put words in the boys' mouths and led them to believe they wouldn't get in trouble.

"Whatever they are agreeing to, it is with the expectation that they go home when they are done," Main said.

# Asia

## Quake in remote west China kills 617, buries more

**XINING, China** (AP)—China poured rescue crews and equipment into a mountainous Tibetan region Thursday in a bid to find survivors more than a day after strong earthquakes killed more than 600 people and injured thousands.

The series of quakes flattened buildings across remote western Yushu county and sent survivors, many bleeding from their wounds, flooding into the streets of Jiegu township. State television showed block after devastated block of toppled mud and wood homes. Local officials said 85 percent of the buildings had been destroyed.

Survivors spent the night outdoors, many gathering on a field used for horse races, as temperatures fell below freezing and aftershocks continued, residents said. With limited medical supplies and doctors, survivors with broken limbs could do no more than wait for help.

"This feels like a war zone. It's a complete mess. At night, people were crying and shouting. Women were crying for



Rescue workers search for survivors at the site of a collapsed building in Yushu county in western China's Qinghai province on Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

their families," said Ren Yu, general manager of Yushu Hotel in Jiegu, who said he felt at least five aftershocks overnight. "Some of the people have broken legs or arms but all they can

get now is an injection. They were crying in pain."

Rescue work focused on several collapsed schools, with the state news agency saying at least 66 students and 10 teach-

ers died. State media cited the head of the Red Cross chapter in Yushu as saying that 70 percent of the schools collapsed. Three schools accounted for most of the dead, with 32 students at one primary school and 22 at the Yushu Vocational School, 20 of them girls, the Xinhua News Agency quoted a provincial education official as saying.

## Aid arriving after cyclone kills 112 in east India

**CALCUTTA, India** (AP)—Aid workers distributed rice, dried fruits, water and tarpaulins Thursday to the victims of a ferocious cyclone that killed 112 people in northeastern India and demolished ten of thousands of mud huts.

Rescuers also cleared hundreds of uprooted trees blocking road access to the devastated region, said Vyasji, a Bihar state disaster management official who uses one name.

Packing winds of more than 100 mph (160 kph), the cyclone struck close to midnight Tues-

day in parts of West Bengal and Bihar states, ripping up trees and snapping telephone and electricity lines, West Bengal Civil Defense Minister Srikrishna Mukherjee said.

Hundreds of people were injured and thousands left homeless. They were caught unaware as there was no cyclone warning from the weather department, said Devesh Chandra Thakur, Bihar state's minister for disaster management.

"Most people were sleeping when the cyclone struck. They

"We have so far received no government help ... People are surviving on whatever they are left with," he said.

Vyasji said rescuers found another 23 bodies overnight from northeastern Bihar districts of Araria, Kishenganj and Purnea, raising the overall death toll to 112.

near a key seaport. The protesters chanted "God is Great" and some threw rocks at a billboard bearing the photo of Jakarta's governor. More than 1,000 police were deployed to the area, which is near the U.S. Embassy in the central part of the capital, city spokesman Cucu Kurnia said. On Wednesday, protesters wielding machetes, sticks and petrol bombs clashed with city security officers and riot police in running battles near the port outside the city center. Police used tear gas, rubber bullets, water cannons and batons to beat back the demonstrators.

### South Korea hoists sunken warship

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea lifted its sunken warship Thursday in waters near the tense border with North Korea, about three weeks after it went down following a mysterious explosion with dozens of sailors believed trapped inside. Bad weather and heavy seas have impeded efforts to locate the 44 missing crew and salvage the wreckage of the 1,200-ton Cheonan. On Thursday, a huge naval crane hoisted the stern—where most of the missing sailors are believed trapped—a day after divers succeeded in tying the wreckage with chains. Footage by TV broadcaster SBS showed the stern being hoisted about 10-13 feet (3-4 meters) above the sea surface. Salvage workers planned to board the stern later Thursday to search for the missing crew.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### RP massacre suspect moved to secure jail

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine authorities moved the main suspect in the election-related massacre of 57 people and his trial to a maximum-security detention facility outside the capital Thursday, citing risks to public safety. Former town mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., a scion of a powerful southern clan, and 195 others have been charged with murder for the Nov. 23 slaughter of political rivals and journalists accompanying them—a massacre unprecedented even in a country notorious for election violence and political killings. Three days after the killings, Ampatuan turned himself in to police. He was the only person formally charged until prosecutors filed an indictment against his father, clan patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr., and the others in February, in the country's largest murder case since World War II war crime trials. Andal Ampatuan Jr. is the only defendant so far to stand trial, with proceedings opening in Manila in January.

#### Protesters rally in Indonesia after deadly clash

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Hundreds of demonstrators descended Thursday on City Hall to demand that Jakarta's public security force be disbanded following bloody clashes over a Muslim tomb that left three dead and 156 wounded

## Thai troops clear area vacated by Red Shirts

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thai troops cleared the gutted remains of their armored carriers from the site of last week's bloody clashes after anti-government protesters vacated the area and shifted to an upscale shopping district to intensify their campaign to oust the prime minister.

Thousands more took over the posh Ratchaprasong area, lined with shopping malls and five-star hotels, on April 5.

A failed attempt by security forces to flush the Red Shirts from Phan Fa on Saturday ended with bloody street battles, leaving 23 people dead and more than 800 wounded in Thailand's worst political violence in nearly two decades. Another 195 people remain hospitalized, 14 of them in intensive care.

"We moved out of Phan Fa for the safety of our protesters," protest leader Nattawut Saikua said. "And more importantly, the army would not be able to have any more excuse for clamping down on us. We've already cleared the area for them."

"Ratchaprasong will be the last battlefield between us and Abhisit. Logistically we'd be more efficient. We'd better organize ourselves. Our troops would then be much more stronger," he said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Board of Education  
**Public School System**  
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



## INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-026

### "Desktop Computers for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Desktop Computers for Saipan Southern High School**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Fax request may be sent to 664-3791.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: [robert.florian@cnmipss.org](mailto:robert.florian@cnmipss.org)

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**IFB 10-026**" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian  
Procurement & Supply Officer

# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Ash from Iceland's volcano disrupts UK air traffic

LONDON (AP)—Officials say ash clouds drifting from Iceland's erupting volcano have disrupted air traffic across Britain. Flights have been suspended at the English cities of Manchester and Birmingham, as well as in Belfast in Northern Ireland and the Scottish airports at Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The ash has also disrupted operations at London Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, where at least 150 flights were canceled. Another 138 flights have been canceled at Britain's second-busiest terminal of London Gatwick. U.K. airport operator BAA says "major disruption" in air traffic is expected, while the National Air Traffic Service explains "volcanic ash represents a significant safety threat to aircraft." The volcano erupted Wednesday.

### Four police advisors missing in Darfur

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Four South African police advisors serving with the international peacekeeping force in Darfur are missing, the force said late Wednesday. The unarmed advisors—two women and two men—have not been heard from since 4 p.m. local time on Sunday shortly after they left their team site outside Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, on a 4 mile (7 kilometer) trip back to their private quarters, the joint United Nations-African Union force known as UNAMID said in a statement. "Despite an all-out effort on every front, the peacekeepers and their vehicle remain unaccounted for," UNAMID's Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari said in a statement. "Our concern is that that we are now facing a carjacking and abduction situation," he said.

### 6 killed in shootout on Acapulco's main shore road

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—A gunbattle erupted on the main coast boulevard in the heart of this Pacific resort Wednesday afternoon, killing six people, including a mother and her 8-year-old child. None of the victims appeared to be tourists. One federal police officer died in a shootout with gunmen, but at least three of the dead seemed to have been bystanders caught in the crossfire. Five other people suffered wounds and about a dozen vehicles were riddled with bullets. Federal police said they detained a 26-year-old and said he apparently worked for Edgar Valdez Villarreal, a U.S.-born drug capo who has been engaged in a bloody battle in the Acapulco area with former colleagues in the Beltran-Leyva drug cartel. Police said the gunbattle started when "armed men traveling in several vehicles opened fire on the occupants of another vehicle," killing both men.

## Poland's post-crash sense of unity starts to fray

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The sense of unity spawned by the plane crash that killed Poland's president and dozens of other leaders has begun to fray, with controversy flaring over the choice of a burial site and suspicion spreading about the cause of the accident.

Aviation experts say the probe of the crash is moving relatively quickly but some Poles are complaining about a lack of public information, including the transcript of conversation in the cockpit before the accident.

Pilots ignored pleas by traffic controllers at the Smolensk Airport to land elsewhere. Some here are speculating that they ignored the risks in order to keep President Lech Kaczynski on schedule for a memorial for Polish officers executed by Soviet secret police in the Katyn forest in 1940.

Investigators hope to release information on the flight recordings on Thursday but conspiracy theories are already swirling.

"We will never find out the truth," said Jan Maliszewski, a 42-year-old construction worker.

Discord flared for a second day as to whether Kaczynski and his wife should be interred at the 1,000-year-old Wawel Cathedral—the main burial site of Polish monarchs since the 14th century and of more recent heroes, including the 20th-century Polish statesman and military leader Jozef Pilsudski.

Sunday's state funeral will begin at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) with a Mass at St. Mary's Basilica. The bodies



A volunteer adjusts candles placed in front of the President Palace in Warsaw, Poland, Thursday, April 15, 2010. Polish President Lech Kaczynski who was killed in a plane crash in Russia is going to be buried in Wawel castle in Krakow on Sunday.

of the first couple will then be carried in a funeral procession across the Old Town and up the Wawel hill, site of a castle and a fortification wall surrounding the cathedral.

Some Poles criticized the decision to bury Kaczynski, whose combative style earned him many opponents, in a place reserved for the most esteemed of national figures.

"President Lech Kaczynski was a kind, humble man but there is no rea-

son to bury him on Wawel with Polish kings, next to Jozef Pilsudski," said Andrzej Wajda, the director who made a film on the Katyn massacres that won him an Oscar nomination in 2008.

About 300 people staged a protest in Warsaw on Wednesday evening decrying the decision, which was made by the Kaczynski family and the Catholic church without public debate or a vote in parliament. A large banner read "Warsaw for President, Wawel for Kings." It

followed a similar rally in Krakow the evening before.

"Wawel is a place for kings, poets and the most outstanding people of Poland," said Katarzyna Markiewicz, 25. "Mr. Kaczynski was our president and this is a national tragedy but he shouldn't be at Wawel. This is a political game."

In a front-page editorial, leading Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza said the "decision to bury him in Wawel is hasty and emotional."

## Gunfire at deposed president's rally in Kyrgyzstan

OSH, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—Gunfire broke out Thursday at a rally where the deposed president of Kyrgyzstan was speaking to supporters. Kurmanbek Bakiyev was hustled into a car and driven from the scene, and there were no apparent injuries in the crowd.

One of Bakiyev's brothers, Kanybek, told The Associated Press that the president was uninjured and was returning to his home in the village of Teyit, about a two-hour drive from the rally site.

The gunfire crackled out seconds after Bakiyev began speaking to the crowd of about 5,000 in Osh, the largest city in the southern region that is Bakiyev's support base.

Although there were no reports of injuries, the gunfire underlined the tensions that persist in the second week of the crisis in the ex-Soviet Central Asian country where both the United States and Russia have military bases.

Witnesses said the shots were fired into the air by Bakiyev's bodyguards, possibly because of concern about a group of Bakiyev opponents who were approaching from a separate rally about 300 meters

**Interim government says it'll seize President Kurmanbek Bakiyev if he does not resign**



## Israeli officials say Syria gives Hezbollah Scuds

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli defense officials said Wednesday they believe Hezbollah has Scud missiles that could hit all of Israel, a day after Israel's president accused Syria of supplying the Lebanese guerrillas with the weapons for the first time.

Israeli officials say the introduction of Scuds could alter the strategic balance with Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed militia that battled Israel to a stalemate during a monthlong war in 2006.

President Shimon Peres, speaking in Paris, charged that Syria is playing a double game, talking about peace,

while "it is delivering Scuds to Hezbollah to threaten Israel," according to a statement from his office.

The remarks by Peres, whose position is largely ceremonial, went beyond public assessments of senior Israeli defense figures. He gave no details.

In Washington, the Syrian Embassy dismissed the allegations and accused Israel of trying to divert attention from questions about Israel's nuclear program. Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear arms, though it does not confirm or deny this.

"If we are to discuss armament in our

region, we should begin with Israel's massive nuclear weapons arsenal and continuous arming with top-caliber U.S. weapons, which helps perpetuate its occupation of our territories," said embassy spokesman Ahmed Salkini.

"The timing also indicates a sinister attempt to undermine any U.S.-Syrian rapprochement."

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley expressed concern but did not confirm that Hezbollah now has Scud missiles.

"Regardless of the issue of Scuds, we remain concerned about the pro-

tection of increasingly sophisticated weapons to parties, to Hezbollah, and this is an issue that we continue to raise with Syria," he said, adding that such weapons endanger Lebanon's security.

Some Scud missiles have a range of hundreds of miles (kilometers) and could reach any target in Israel if fired from Lebanon. They can carry an explosive warhead of up to 1 ton.

The defense officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing a classified intelligence assessment, stopped short of stating unequivocally that Scuds are now deployed in Lebanon.

# Off the Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### **Wash. deputy sues over Whopper with spit**

PORLTAND, Ore. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy in Washington state is suing Burger King and a franchise operator over a Whopper he says a worker spit on. Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Edward Bylsma says in the lawsuit that he stopped for a meal at a Vancouver, Wash., Burger King early one morning in March 2009 and got an "uneasy feeling" about two of its workers. When he checked his hamburger, the suit says, he found a big gob of spit. DNA testing matched the saliva to one of the workers, who eventually pleaded guilty to assault. The federal court suit filed Tuesday in Portland seeks at least \$75,000 and names Burger King Corp. and franchise operator Kaizen Restaurants in Beaverton. Burger King and Kaizen said in a statement Wednesday they have "zero tolerance" for the workers' actions, and that both employees have been fired.

### **Pa. police: 3rd grader gave heroin to classmates**

WILKINSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Police say a third-grader in Pennsylvania handed out more than 60 small bags of heroin to his classmates before his teacher discovered them. Wilkinsburg police say the 8-year-old brought the bags to Turner Elementary School on Tuesday. At a news conference Wednesday, police said some of the bags were found empty in a trash can, but there was no evidence the kids had ingested the drugs. Police say the bags were stamped with the words "trust me." School officials sent a letter home to parents about the incident. Police are investigating how the boy got the drugs.

### **Dead man wins mayor's race in small Tennessee town**

TRACY CITY, Tenn. (AP)—A dead man has been elected mayor of Tracy City, Tenn. Carl Robin Geary died suddenly a few weeks ago. But he received 268 votes anyway in Tuesday's nonpartisan election, beating out incumbent Barbara Brock with 85 votes in the two-candidate race. An election administrator, Donna Basham, said Wednesday she wouldn't speculate on why Geary won posthumously but noted his death had been widely reported at the time in this corner of southeastern Tennessee. She says the city council will now have to appoint a mayor to the four-year term. Brock had been appointed mayor 16 months ago when the previous mayor died. She says she thought she had done a good job but added voters wanted a return to the past.

### **Police: Man sets home ablaze with pot bong**

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP)—

Authorities said a 30-year-old man was arrested for allegedly using a marijuana bong to set his mobile home on fire. Dona Ana County investigator Lindell Wright said in court documents that the man was using alcohol to clean the pot smoking instrument Sunday when he purposely ignited the alcohol and set fire to curtains in his San Ysidro home. Wright said an off-duty deputy sheriff spotted the man driving away from the burning home and alerted authorities. He was arrested after a police chase through the community. Lindell said no one else was home when the suspect allegedly set the blaze, which destroyed the home but caused no injuries. He said the man acknowledged being distraught and suffering from a drug addiction.

### **No fish story: Man jailed for weighting fish**

DALLAS (AP)—A suburban Dallas man must serve 15 days in jail after admitting to stuffing a lead weight into a bass he caught during a fishing tournament. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman told The Dallas Morning News that Robby Rose must also surrender his fishing license. That's after the 45-year-old man pleaded guilty to felony attempted theft after admitting to rigging his fish. The felony charge relates to the bass boat Rose hoped to win with the rigged fish at a bass-fishing tournament on Lake Ray Hubbard last October. Rockwall County District Attorney Kenda Culpepper told the newspaper that her office considered the issue one of a \$55,000 bass boat, not a 10-pound fish. The newspaper reported fishing contest officials became suspicious after feeling a lump inside the fish and confronted Rose.

### **Wis. farmer has world's tallest horse**

POYNETTE, Wis. (AP)—When people tell Jerry Gilbert to get off his high horse, they will mean it—literally. His 9-year-old Belgian gelding named Big Jake is the Guinness World Record-holder for world's tallest living horse at 20 hands, 2.75 inches or one quarter inch short of 6-foot-11. That's 2.75 inches taller than the previous record-holder, a Clydesdale from Texas named Remington. Gilbert is co-owner of Smokey Hollow Farm near Poyntette. He said he received notification from the Guinness World Records in England in late March. Jake's coronation as a world record holder was expected Friday night at the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison.

### **Tater not: Deputies find cocaine posing as spud**

ATHENS, Ala. (AP)—Lime-

stone County authorities have arrested a man they said tried to disguise five ounces of cocaine as a baked potato. Sheriff's Lt. Lance Royals said they got a tip Monday afternoon that a man in a silver Mustang had cocaine. When investigators approached the man in a parking lot outside a restaurant, he said he had nothing illegal. Investigators searched the car and found a carryout plate with chicken, rice and what looked like a foil-wrapped potato. The foil contained five ounces of cocaine. The 21-year-old originally gave a false name and said he lived in Huntsville but couldn't remember the address, but Royals found out his real real

name. The man was being held without bail on the trafficking charge and on \$2,500 bail on a charge of giving a false name.

### **Police: NJ suspect tried to gnaw off fingertips**

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. (AP)—Authorities said a man who escaped from the back of a police car in New Jersey tried to gnaw off his fingerprints. Police captured Keith Simmonds Jr. in Middletown on Monday. Authorities said the 21-year-old's fingertips were bloodied. Atlantic Highlands police arrested Simmonds and a passenger in his vehicle on drug charges after

officers stopped them and said they found marijuana on Sunday night. Police said Simmonds managed to move his handcuffed arms to the front of his body, kick out the side window of the patrol car and escape while officers used a drug-detection dog to search his car. Simmonds was being held in the Monmouth County jail on \$135,000 bail. It's not known if he has a lawyer.

### **Police: SC motel guest uses snake to hit man**

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP)—Police in South Carolina say an argument between two motel guests ended when one of the

men was hit in the head with a snake. Rock Hill police say the victim told officers that he argued Tuesday night with 29-year-old Tony Smith over loud music coming from Smith's room. The dispute appeared to be over, but the man told police Smith walked up to him several hours later with a 4-foot python and hit him in the face with the snake's head. Smith surrendered the snake to family members before police handcuffed him and took him to jail. Smith was charged with assault and battery. He remains in the Rock Hill jail on a nearly \$1,100 bond and jail officials did not know if he had an attorney.

## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

# †Dolores Atalig Fujihira Duenas

Better known as "Sachi"

Born on May 13, 1933 and Died April 11, 2010

### *Now joins:*

#### **Husband:**

†Antonio Palacios Duenas

#### **Parents:**

†Jose/†Ana Fujihira

#### **Rear Parents:**

†Carmen Sablan/†Antonio Reyes

#### **Parents-In-Law:**

†Jose Villagomez/†Nieves Palacios Duenas

#### **Son:**

†Juan F. Duenas

#### **Daughter:**

†Ana F. Duenas

#### **Son-In-Law:**

†Antonio A. Hocog

#### **Grandson:**

†Joseph Anthony D. Hocog and †Enrique Naputi

#### **Sisters and Brother-In-Laws:**

†Ignacia F. Tesero, †Yosiko F. Barcina

#### **Brother-In-Laws:**

†Maria F. Babauta, †Anna (Meko) F. Ada,

#### **Sister-In-Law:**

Merced (Swie) F. Torres, and †Carmen (Kino) F. Santos

#### **Rear Brother:**

†Pedro P. Duenas and †Jose P. Duenas

#### **And will be missed by her:**

#### **Children:**

Nieves Duenas (Children and Grandchildren)

Barbara Duenas (Children and Grandchildren)

Alice D./Frank S. Tudela (Children and Grandchildren)

Tomas F. Duenas (Son)

William F./Sue Duenas (Children)

Maria D./Antonio Naputi (Children and Grandchildren)

John F./Glenda Duenas (Children)

Patricia D. Hocog (Children and Grandchildren)

Raymond F./Myrna Duenas (Children and Grandchildren)

Lourdes F. Duenas

Norbert F./Gina Duenas (Children and Grandchildren)

Jose F./Nenette Duenas (Children and Grandchildren)

Martin F./Manette Duenas (Children)

Jessica F. Duenas (Children)

Annette D./Jose Camacho (Children and Grandchildren)

Estanislao (Yosi/Maria (Mako) P. Fujihira and Children)

Ignacio P. Duenas/†Trinidad Duenas

Rita D. Hawkey/†Dick Hawkey (Tacoma, Washington), Martina D.

Camacho/Vicente Camacho, Antonia D. Dela Rosa/Antonio Dela Rosa

(Guam), Maria D. Winegar / Mike Winegar (Indiana) and Rufina I. Duenas

†Consolacion Reyes/Miguel Sablan, Juan S./Leticia Reyes, Dolores R./Joaquin

Tudela (Oregon), †Mariana S. Reyes, Vidal S./Gloria Reyes (Florida), Jesusa

R./James Cabrera, Antonio S./Margaret Reyes (Idaho), Joaquin Sablan Reyes

#### **Brother:**

#### **Brother-In-Law:**

#### **Sister-In-Laws:**

#### **Reared Brother and Sisters:**

*And she will be greatly missed also by her numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren, godsons and goddaughters.*

Daily mass is offered at San Vicente Church at 6pm followed by a rosary starting April 12 until April 18, 2010. Her remains will be escorted on April 19, 2010 from CHC to San Vicente Church at 7:30 am and Mass will be at 10am followed by her burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

**From the Family**

## DEATH &amp; FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## †DANIEL TENORIO VILLAGOMEZ

January 22, 1936 - April 14, 2010

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

WIFE: Rosario DLG Villagomez

CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN &amp; GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

- Barbara DLG Villagomez
- Joseph DLG Villagomez (Lorenzo Xavier Q. Villagomez, Marjorie Denise V. & Leonard Pangelinan, Ashley Mae Q. Villagomez & James, Jenna Marie Q. Villagomez, Rosie Adaline Q. Villagomez, Cierra Jade Q. Villagomez)
- Lorina DLG Villagomez & Paul Manglona (Daniel Glenn V. Iglesias & Beth (Ha'ane), Alexis V. Iglesias (Arion), Daena V. Iglesias, Shanelle V. Iglesias, A.J.V. Iglesias)
- Julie June DLG Villagomez & John Fortin (Keendo V. Celis, Julia V. Garrido, Rodanee DLG Villagomez)
- Antonia V. & Ian Carr (Jesse DLG Villagomez & Dina, Stephanie V. Blas & Josh, Renee V. Blas, Robert V. Carr, Ian V. Carr)
- Daniel DLG Villagomez & Tina Marie Blas (Terranica B. Villagomez, Daro B. Villagomez)

SISTERS &amp; IN-LAWS:

Remedio Camacho  
Cecilia M. Villagomez  
Remedio DLG Villagomez  
Vicente A. Villagomez  
Remedio A. Villagomez  
Magdalena J. Villagomez  
Isabel Villagomez & Francisco Camacho  
Francisca Villagomez & Ron Sintkowski

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAWS:

Nenita Deleon Guerrero  
Ramon & Rufina Deleon Guerrero  
Jesus & Vicki Deleon Guerrero  
Angelina Deleon Guerrero  
Mariana DLG & Ron Hansen  
Lorenzo & Frances Deleon Guerrero  
Jose & Bang On Deleon Guerrero  
Ramona DLG & John Pangelinan  
Lourdes DLG Nakazato  
Bernadita DLG & John Diego Urumelog

*In his new life, he now joins his:*

PARENTS:

†Jose Seman &amp; †Antonia Tenorio Villagomez

BROTHERS:

†Roman T. Villagomez

†Antonio T. Villagomez

†Jesus T. Villagomez

†Joaquin T. Villagomez

†Jose T. Villagomez

†Vicente Deleon Guerrero

†Takeo Nakazato

Mass is being offered at St Jude Church every evening at 6:00pm on Monday thru Friday; 7:00am on Saturday; and 8:00am on Sunday. Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30pm.

On Thursday, April 22, 2010, our beloved +Daniel will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00am to St.Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family



## Science &amp; Technology

## Technology Q&amp;A: Sound advice

By DON LINDICH  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q. I want to get the best sound I can out of the thousands of songs I have on my computer hard drive. It is important to me that there is no "weak link" in the chain and I want to make sure that the amp is as good as the speakers. My fear is the amp may not provide the quality signal to get the most out of good speakers and I am unsure what is best to use with a computer. I am OK giving up the remote-control functions if needed. Any advice?—B.R., Cotati, Calif.**

**A.** If your computer will be the main source for a hi-fi sound system and you want the very best sound possible you would do well to check out the Neuhaus Laboratories T-2 amplifier. The T-2 is a remote-controlled vacuum tube amplifier with volume control and a high quality digital-to-analog converter (DAC). A USB connection is provided for computers, along with analog and optical connections for traditional audio sources. It's been playing to rave reviews in publications such as Rolling Stone, Cult of Mac and Audio Video Revolution, and now you can add my kudos to the mix.

Vacuum tubes are preferred by guitar players and many audiophiles for their pleasing, warm, natural sound quality and the T-2's designers thought tube magic would be a natural match with computer audio. I tried the T-2 with

my computer recently. Setup is simple and I loved the way it made my iTunes Music Store purchases sound. Usually they sound thin and empty when I connect my computer to a hi-fi system, but the T-2 gave them solidity, warmth and presence that made listening to them a pleasure.

At \$795 most people would not consider the T-2 an impulse purchase, but given that a tube amplifier with volume control usually costs over



**MCT**  
Check out the Neuhaus Laboratories T-2 amplifier, a remote controlled vacuum tube amplifier with volume control and a high quality digital-to-analog converter.

\$1,000 on its own and a DAC several hundred, combining them both for \$795 represents a fair value if you are building a hi-fi system and a computer will be providing much of the content. You will likely have the T-2 much longer than any \$795 computer you buy. Learn more at [www.neuhauslabs.com](http://www.neuhauslabs.com).

*Read past columns and product reviews by Don Lindich at [www.soundadviceblog.com](http://www.soundadviceblog.com), and contact him using the "submit question" link on that site.*

## In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of

## EDMOND "NED" SALAS DEBRUM

extend our sincerest appreciation to our many relatives, friends, classmates, and associates, from near and far, for the genuine compassion extended to us during our most difficult and sorrowful moments. Your presence at the daily masses of intention offered in memory of our beloved and most especially at the funeral mass and burial brought comfort to our hearts.

We have been richly blessed with loving and caring people and for helping us with much courage and strength to endure the grief and sorrow for our loss. We shall forever treasure in our hearts all these Christian gestures and May God continue to bless us and hold all of us in his great Love.

On Friday, April 16, 2010, we the family humbly and cordially invite you all to join us for the mass of intention for our Dearly Beloved †Edmond at 6:00 a.m. to be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral and followed immediately with breakfast to be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Thank you, Dangkulo na Si Yu's Ma'a'e, Maraming Salamat Po.

Leriza S. Debrum and children  
Leslie S. Debrum & Eloise Kannelly  
Ida S. Debrum & Paul C. Camacho

# Life & Style

## 2 more 'Idol' contestants sent home; 7 remain

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"American Idol" viewers were cruel to Andrew Garcia and Katie Stevens.

The 24-year-old musician from Moreno Valley, Calif., and the 17-year-old high school student from Middlebury, Conn., received the fewest viewer votes Wednesday on the Fox singing contest.

Both failed to wow the judges with Elvis Presley tunes Tuesday. Stevens received a mixed reaction to "Baby What You Want Me To Do," while

Garcia was lambasted for "Hound Dog."

"I'm glad I've been through what I've been through," Garcia said after his dismissal.

Stevens and Garcia were both sent packing on the double-elimination episode because the judges saved 26-year-old personal trainer Michael Lynche of Queens, N.Y., last week. "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest revealed that Lynche, who impressed the panel Tuesday with a low-key rendition of "In the Ghetto," was not one of the bottom-

three vote getters on Wednesday.

Garcia was ousted at the beginning of the show, but Stevens didn't learn her fate until after performances from two past "Idol" contestants. Brooke White, the seventh season's fifth-place songstress, crooned Presley's "If I Can Dream" with model-singer Justin Gaston. Adam Lambert, the eighth season's runner-up, performed his own "Whataya Want From Me."

"If you want to win this competition, you've

got to wake up," Lambert advised.

The other finalists remaining in the competition are Crystal Bowersox, 24, of Toledo, Ohio; Lee Dewyze, 24, of Mount Prospect, Ill.; Aaron Kelly, 17, of Sonestown, Pa.; Siobhan Magnus, 20, of Marstons Mills, Mass.; Casey James, 27, of Fort Worth, Texas; and Tim Urban, 20, of Duncansville, Texas.

The top seven singers will tackle inspirational tunes next week.

## Sheriff: Filming of Seagal's 'Lawman' suspended

**HARVEY, La. (AP)**—Production of a television show featuring reserve deputy and movie star Steven Seagal will be suspended "for the time being" as Seagal faces sexual harassment allegations, a suburban New Orleans sheriff said Wednesday.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said the continued video recording of the reality series, "Steven Seagal Lawman," would be a distraction for the department in light of allegations made against Seagal by a woman in a California civil lawsuit.

Kayden Nguyen, a 23-year-old model, sued Seagal for \$1 million on Monday in Los Angeles, alleging he sexually harassed her and engaged in sex trafficking. Her lawsuit claims Seagal hired her as an executive assistant and flew her to Louisiana while he was making



In this May 18, 2006 file photo actor Steven Seagal smiles on his arrival at Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow.

the reality series and repeatedly groped and fondled her.

She claims she was kept at a house in Lafitte, La., for several

days and that Seagal repeatedly fondled and groped her, touching her genitals and breasts without permission. She claims two other women were kept at the house and were used by the actor for sexual purposes.

She also claims Seagal forced her to take illegal prescription medications and that she repeatedly complained to others on Seagal's staff but wasn't allowed to leave the home. Nguyen states she fled the house after several days and borrowed money to return to Los Angeles.

Seagal's attorney, Marty Singer, denied the allegations and said in a statement that Nguyen was fired for illegal drug use.

"The claims in her lawsuit are a complete fabrication without a scintilla of truth," Singer wrote.

Normand, at a news conference Wednesday, said he does

## Pa.: No legal action in 'Jon & Kate' labor probe

**HORSHAM, Pa. (AP)**—Child-labor permits should have been obtained for children appearing on the TLC television show "Jon & Kate Plus 8," but the state will not take legal action against the producers, Pennsylvania regulators have concluded.

No action will be taken if a portion of proceeds from the now-canceled reality program are put into a trust fund for Jon and Kate Gosselin's children and child-labor permits are obtained for future filming, the state Department of Labor & Industry said in a ruling made public Wednesday.

The new stipulations must be met or labor regulators may pros-

ecute in the future, officials said.

Laurie Goldberg, a spokeswoman for Discovery Talent Services and TLC, said the companies have complied with state labor regulations and continue to do so. They agreed to get permits even though they maintain they are not required under Pennsylvania law, she said.

The state agency launched an investigation after receiving several complaints from the public beginning in late 2008, labor officials said Wednesday at a related legislative hearing.

Their probe concluded that during the filming of "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which followed the lives of the couple and their

eight children, the kids were employed under Pennsylvania's Child Labor Law because of the direction they sometimes received, because of their continued participation in the series and because the Gosselins and others were paid for the show.

The Gosselins' twins were 9 and their sextuplets 5 during the show's final season, which ended last fall.

"It's important to note that we did an investigation, and we made sure the children were not in any danger or endangered as a result of the work they were doing," said Labor & Industry press secretary Troy Thompson.

**Estefans open Miami home to Obama, stirring debate**

**MIAMI (AP)**—In the realm of Cuban musicians and entertainers, Gloria Estefan has been revered as the community's first daughter, the child of exiles whose songs of love and country are a staple in any music collection.

Now the songstress is taking on a new role: On Thursday, she and husband Emilio Estefan will host President Barack Obama at their Miami Beach home for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser.

It's a political act that has drawn both condemnation and admiration in this traditionally Republican community, where the younger generation has been trending more Democratic.

"They represented our community with much dignity and

"The fact that they're openly engaging the Democratic president, I think, speaks to the shift that is taking place in the Cuban electorate itself," said Fernand Amandi, executive vice president of Bendixen & Amandi, a public opinion research and consulting firm in Miami that has surveyed Cuban Americans.

A 2008 poll of 800 randomly selected Cuban-Americans found that younger and more recent immigrants were less likely to be Republican than older generations: Among those 18 to 44, 42 percent identified as Republican, compared to 66 percent of those age 65 and older. A majority in the younger age bracket said they voted for Obama.

but didn't report it to authorities. "She reported it to Steven Seagal," Waldo said. "In Jefferson Parish, Mr. Seagal is the police."

Nguyen filed a complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment & Housing and requested an immediate finding that she could sue Seagal. The agency granted that

request and closed her case on April 1, court filings show.

Normand said he has informed A&E, the network that airs the show, and ITV Studios that it would be disruptive to continue making the show, in which cameras follow Seagal when he answers calls as a reserve deputy, with so much media interest in the Seagal case.

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**Kick-Ass**

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

**Aaron Johnson, Nicolas Cage**

Action • Rated R

**Synopsis**

Mark Millar's violent comic tale of wannabe superheroes is adapted by writer/director Matthew Vaughn (*Layer Cake*) with this *Marv* Films production. Aaron Johnson stars as a teen who steps out of his house one day with a mask and a painted baseball bat and starts to fight crime even though he has no superpowers. Lyndsy Fonseca co-stars as the character's object of desire, with Nicolas Cage also appearing as an ex-cop whose hatred of a drug lord forces him to train his daughter to be a lethal vigilante.



**Date Night**

Friday	4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:30	

**Steve Carell, Tina Fey**

Comedy • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

Steve Carell and Tina Fey star in director Shawn Levy's comedy about a couple whose routine date night becomes anything but when dinner and a movie just won't suffice anymore. Their union in imminent danger of becoming hopelessly monotonous, the desperate couple goes to unprecedented lengths in order to preserve the spark.



**Clash Of The Titans**

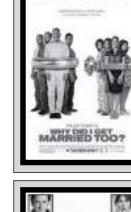
Friday	4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

**Sam Worthington**

Fantasy • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure *Clash of the Titans* is resurrected in this remake from *Incredible Hulk* director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.



**Why Did I Get Married Too?**

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05	

**Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry**

Comedy • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

The 2008 romantic comedy *Why Did I Get Married Too?* is back with a second helping of marital mayhem. Janet Jackson and Tyler Perry star as a couple who are forced to confront their differences when their best friend gets married again.



**Hot Tub Time Machine**

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:10	

**John Cusack, Robert Corddry**

Comedy • Rated R

**Synopsis**

The 2010 comedy *Hot Tub Time Machine* is a sequel to the 2010 hit *Hot Tub Time Machine*. The original film follows four middle-aged men who travel back in time to their 20th anniversary party to relive their youth. In the sequel, the men are forced to confront their past mistakes and relationships as they try to find a way to move forward.

**How To Train Your Dragon**

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30  
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30  
Sunday 1:00 4



In this April 18, 2007 file photo, Larry King and his wife Shaun arrive to a party held by CNN celebrating King's fifty years of broadcasting, New York.

## 1st census signed by Jefferson fetches \$122,500

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A first edition of the first U.S. census signed by Thomas Jefferson in 1791 has been sold at auction in New York City for over \$122,000.

A Sotheby's spokesperson says the 56-page document,

which breaks down the nation's population by free people and slaves, was purchased by a private collector on Wednesday.

Jefferson was secretary of state at the time and his signature certified that the infor-

mation was an official accurate count.

Only two other 1791 first edition copies signed by Jefferson have come up at auction since 1975. One sold in 2004 at Christie's New York for \$85,000; the other sold at Sotheby's in 2000

for \$47,500.

The Jefferson-signed census was part of a large collection of handwritten letters, documents and other manuscripts of American history owned by the late newspaper publisher James S. Copley.

## Quaid: End medical errors that nearly killed twins

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Dennis Quaid's newborn twins nearly died after a medical error at a hospital. By telling their story, he hopes to help prevent the same thing from happening to anyone else.

In 2007, while they were at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Thomas and Zoe Quaid were accidentally given an overdose of the blood thinner heparin.

In a recent interview with

the Associated Press following a speech to the National Press Club in Washington, Quaid said, "There were 41 hours where their lives were in the balance." He said it was the most frightening day of his life and left him and his wife, Kimberly, in "shock, anger and confusion."

Quaid, 56, found out that medical mistakes like the one that happened to his twins in

the Los Angeles hospital are a widespread problem.

He added, "This is preventable error."

One solution, said Quaid, is to raise awareness. Even many health care leaders are not aware of how big the problem is, he said.

Quaid believes the health care industry should be more like the airline industry, which he said is "kept on its toes" by the Nation-

al Transportation Safety Board. The NTSB has helped make flying safer than walking, said Quaid. He said the same thing can happen in health care.

Quaid has produced and narrates a documentary about medical mistakes called "Chasing Zero: Winning the War on Healthcare Harm." It will air on the Discovery Channel April 24. Quaid hopes the documentary will hit viewers in an emotional way.

## Octomom reaches deal avoiding foreclosure on home

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Octomom Nadya Suleman's mortgage holder has agreed to a six-month extension on a \$450,000 balloon payment, allowing her and her 14 children to remain in their home, her attorney said Wednesday.

Suleman's lawyer Jeff Czech said he reached the agreement with mortgage holder Amer Haddadin's attorney after weeks of negotiations.

Both Czech and Haddadin expressed confidence Wednesday that Suleman will be able to come up with the money. Czech said she has several financial deals in the works that he can't disclose.

"It's taking awhile for them to come to fruition, but hopefully things will work out for her," Czech said. "We'll keep our fingers crossed."

Haddadin sold the home in

the Los Angeles suburb of La Habra to Suleman's father, Ed Doud, for \$565,000 last year. Haddadin threatened to foreclose after Suleman missed a March 10 due date for the balloon payment.

In addition to working on her financial deals, Suleman is scheduled to appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on April 20 to talk about raising 14 children. The following day she is

to appear in a skit on the "American Idol" charity show, "Idol Gives Back."

Suleman recently signed a deal with People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals that will give her \$5,000 and a month's supply of veggie dogs and burgers for her family in exchange for placing a sign in her yard that reads, "Don't Let Your Dog or Cat Become an Octomom."

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### NY museum gets originals of Merchant Ivory films

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** (AP)—The original negatives of the Academy Award-winning movies "A Room with a View" and "Howards End" have found a home at a New York film and photography museum. The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film said Wednesday that Merchant Ivory Productions has turned over a collection of

original reels and 35mm archive prints for safekeeping. The 40-plus titles include Oscar nominees "The Bostonians" and "The Remains of the Day," which starred Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson. Eastman House is a landmark Colonial Revival mansion in Rochester that was home to film and photo pioneer George Eastman, founder of the Eastman Kodak Co. It's one of the nation's four major motion picture archives, with more than 30,000 titles.

It holds the collections of filmmakers Cecil B. DeMille, Spike Lee and Martin Scorsese.

### 'South Park' creators plan B'way musical for 2011

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The creators of the cheeky animated TV series "South Park" are taking aim at Broadway. Trey Parker and Matt Stone have written a musical comedy called "The Book of Mormon" that will open on Broadway in March 2011.

The two wrote the show's book, music and lyrics, along with Robert Lopez, one of the creators of the Tony-winning "Avenue Q." The musical will be directed by Parker and Jason Moore, who directed "Avenue Q." Producers Scott Rudin (ROO'-dih) and Anne Garefino (gar-UH-FEE'-noh) said Wednesday that a theater, casting and other production details would be announced later. The Emmy-winning "South Park" premiered in 1997 on Comedy Central.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## CNN's Larry King files for divorce from 7th wife

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Larry King has filed for divorce from his seventh wife, court filings show. The 76-year-old host of CNN's "Larry King Live" filed Wednesday to end the couple's nearly 13-year marriage, citing "irreconcilable differences." He married Shawn Southwick-King in a hospital room in 1997 three days before surgery to clear a clogged blood vessel.

The couple have two sons, ages 11 and 9. King is seeking joint custody of the boys. He is also asking a court not to award Southwick-King, 50, any spousal support.

"His major concern is the welfare of his children," said Howard Rubenstein, a spokesman for King.

He said Southwick-King filed for divorce moments after King's filing. Her filing was not immediately available.

Rubenstein said the talk-show host would not comment further on the divorce.

The filing was first reported by celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

King's nightly news and interview show has been a CNN mainstay for nearly 25 years.

He and Southwick-King started house-hunting in California shortly after their marriage and lived in Beverly Hills. He is a Los Angeles Dodgers season ticket-holder and announced the start of the team's home opener to fans Tuesday.

King has three children from previous relationships.

## Man with sailor's mouth rocks the boat at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years to a man who curses something awful. We have three children, and he curses at them, too, when he's angry. I'm afraid his verbal abuse is destroying our children's self-esteem, and I have asked him repeatedly to stop it. I even threatened to leave if he doesn't clean up his act.

When he swears, it sends shivers up my spine and I get angry. We used to have heated arguments, but I have learned to watch my mouth. I thought he would get the idea if I set an example, but he didn't even notice.

He was in the Navy, and for a long time he blamed his cursing on his time in the military. Well, he has been out for 12 years now and that excuse is a little tired. I have made plans to leave him and will stick with my decision unless he's willing to make a serious effort to control his mouth. In the meantime, what do you suggest I do? I've tried everything—even prayer.

### READY TO WALK IN VIRGINIA

DEAR READY TO WALK: In the "meantime," try earplugs for the children and a swear box for your salty-mouthed spouse. (If you don't know what a swear box is, it's a container into which an agreed-upon amount of money is placed every time a curse word is uttered.) Use the proceeds to tide you over after you've left him if the swear box doesn't cure him.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a delicate problem. My boss's wife wears a very strong perfume. Every time she walks into the office, I get a headache and feel nauseated for hours. I am allergic to perfume, and women do not seem to understand that while they "think" they smell good, they are really making me sick.

When the boss's wife comes in, I try to stay in my office, but the smell is so overpowering I can't escape. How should I handle this?

### HOLDING MY BREATH IN TALLADEGA, ALA.

DEAR HOLDING: For the sake of your health, you must speak to your employer and explain your sensitivity to perfumes and the effect they have on you. You are far from alone in this problem—many others also have allergic reactions when exposed to perfumes, after-shave or scented products of any kind.

Ask your boss to please ask his wife to forgo the perfume when she visits the office because it gives you a headache and an upset stomach. How else will he—or she—know there's a problem?

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Carolyn" for about a year. We are both in our 50s and have talked about marriage in the future.

Before we met, Carolyn had profiles on two dating sites—not as a paid member, but just as someone who could look around without being able to send or receive messages.

I have asked her to delete these profiles now that we have reached the one-year mark. She says I shouldn't be concerned, that she's just interested in reading about other people. She insists she wants to be only with me and isn't looking to go out with anyone else.

Abby, this doesn't sit well with me. What do you think?

### EXCLUSIVELY HER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR EXCLUSIVELY HER: I think you don't trust Carolyn. Unless you're convinced that she's "exclusively" yours—and you're not—you should rethink your future with her. If you're discussing marriage, she shouldn't be disregarding your feelings.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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#### Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, )	Civil Action No. 08-0225-CV
Plaintiff, )	AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
vs. )	
JOAQUIN JUAN E. )	
NORITA, )	
Defendant. )	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and the interest of Defendant in the following property: Tract No. 225063, located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale will be held on April 29, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

#### Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. **Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments much be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspections and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2010.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



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Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010

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Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

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### 1 WAITSTAFF

Salary: \$4.55/hr.

Benefits: Self arranged housing; employer provided duty meals; medical insurance & Workman's compensation.

Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010

### 2 COOKS

Salary: \$4.55 - \$5.92/hr.

Benefits: Employer provided shared housing @ \$50/mo.; employer provided duty meals; medical insurance & Workman's compensation.  
1 year minimum related work experience

Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010

### 1 COOK

Salary: \$4.55/hr.

Benefits: Self arranged housing; employer provided duty meals; medical insurance & Workman's compensation.  
1 year minimum related work experience

Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010

### 1 CARPENTER

Salary: \$4.55/hr.

Benefits: Employer provided shared housing @ \$50/mo.; employer provided duty meals; medical insurance & Workman's compensation.  
2 years minimum related work experience

Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010

### 1 ASSISTANT CHIEF STEWARD

Salary: \$4.55 - \$5.01/hr.

Benefits: Self arranged housing; employer provided duty meals; medical insurance & Workman's compensation.  
2 years minimum related work experience as a supervisor

Contact: Pacific Islands Club, Saipan

Applications must be received no later than April 27, 2010



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Mark Aguon, Administrator  
NMI Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247  
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**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
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Ayuda Network, Inc. (ANI), a non-profit organization, under the Basic Center Program (BCP) is looking for an energetic and dynamic individual to fill a full-time/part-time position of SOCIAL & HUMAN SERVICE ASSISTANT.

Under the direct supervision of the ANI Basic Center Program Manager, the employee will be responsible for the following:

1. Assist in the daily operation of the 24-hour Basic Center Program
2. Assist with the planning and implementation of client program activities for the BCP.
3. Assist with the delivery of client services which include transportation of clients to and from school, appointments, counseling or other outside functions/activities.
4. Provide direct quality care for clients at the BCP, which include, but not limited to the client hygienically, meal(s), and school work needs.
5. Assist in the compilation and organization of client data for the BCP.
6. Assist in the procurement of client supplies and daily operation of the BCP.
7. Assist in the coordination of client services with private-public agencies or community based organizations for assistance.
8. Other duties as assigned.

**BASIC REQUIREMENT:**

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience in social and administrative services, and community outreach and organization. Possess knowledge of computers and experience in database management and network administration.

Application may be picked up at Ayuda Network, Inc. located in Susupe adjacent to KARIDAT Social Services Office from 1:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m.. Monday through Friday. All applications shall accompanied by a police clearance, high school diploma, and/or resume. Dateline for submission of applications will be no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2010. For more information contact the Ayuda Network, Inc. at 234-7469 or 235-5437/287-5437.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Board of Education  
**Public School System**  
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**PSS IFB 10-028**

**"Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for CNMI Public School System (PSS)"**

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for the CNMI Public School System (PSS)**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: [robert.florian@cnmipss.org](mailto:robert.florian@cnmipss.org)

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-028" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 30, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will be not be accepted.

**This Project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).**

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian  
Procurement & Supply Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Board of Education  
**Public School System**  
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**PSS IFB 10-029**

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of Rota Jr. High and Rota High School** on Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 16, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee \$33.95.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 3, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Rota High School Library on Rota. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at [lizb@emchen.com](mailto:lizb@emchen.com) no later than May 7, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-029, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 13, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.**

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian  
Procurement & Supply Officer

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**PSS IFB 10-027**

**"Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School (KHS)"**

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. This is re-announcement of IFB 10-018.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: [robert.florian@cnmipss.org](mailto:robert.florian@cnmipss.org)

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**IFB 10-027**" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will be not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian  
Procurement & Supply Officer

# Bulls reach playoffs after win over Bobcats



**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)**—The Chicago Bulls clinched the NBA's last unclaimed playoff spot on Wednesday night, as Derrick Rose scored 27 points and Joakim Noah added 21 points and 13 rebounds in a 98-89 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats.

The Bulls closed the regular season with a three-game winning streak to beat out Toronto for the right to face Eastern Conference top seed Cleveland.

Needing a win or a Raptors loss to New York to get in, the Bulls quickly took it to the Bobcats, never trailing and leading by as many as 18 points.

Tyrus Thomas scored 16 for the Bobcats, who had already locked up the seventh seed in the East and a first-round matchup with Orlando.

## Thunder 114, Grizzlies 105

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 31 points to finish the season as the youngest scoring champion in NBA history.

The 21-year-old Durant finished with an average of 30.1 points, 0.4 ahead of LeBron James, and supplanted 22-year-old Max Zaslofsky of the 1947-48 Chicago Stags as the youngest scoring champ in NBA history.

The Thunder let most of a 27-point lead dwindle away before closing out their 50th win of the season. They will meet the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the playoffs.

Rudy Gay scored 25 points and Zach Randolph had 21 points and 11 rebounds for his 57th double-double of the season as the Grizzlies lost for the ninth time in their final 11 games.

## Raptors 131, Knicks 113

At Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored a career-high 24 points and Andrea Bargnani also scored 24 for Toronto, which owned the tiebreaker with Chicago and would have earned the No. 8 seed had the teams finished with the same record.

Amir Johnson scored 21 points, Sonny Weems had 18, Jose Calderon had 15 and Marco Belinelli 14 for the Raptors. Toronto's 131 points were a season high.

## Mavericks 96, Spurs 89

At Dallas, Jason Kidd and Jason Terry led a 16-2 run at the end of the first quarter, putting the Mavericks ahead for the game and setting up a first-round playoff matchup between these teams.

Dallas clinched the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and San Antonio the seventh.

Before tipoff, Mavs owner Mark Cuban jokingly said this season finale was "Game Minus-1" of that series—and that was before the Spurs helped ensure the matchup by giving Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili the night off. Both were on the initial lineup turned in by coach Gregg Popovich, but neither ended up even sitting on the bench.

## Celtics 106, Bucks 95

At Boston, Jerry Stackhouse and Luke Ridnour scored 17 points apiece as the Milwaukee Bucks won their regular-season finale while Boston rested its Big Three in preparation for the playoffs.

With Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen sitting out to avoid possible injury, the lack of defense and excitement had spectators moving toward the exits



AP  
Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah, right, drives into Charlotte Bobcats center Tyson Chandler in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 14, 2010, in Charlotte, N.C.

midway through the fourth quarter.

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 15 assists for the Celtics, who lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

## Magic 125, 76ers 111

At Orlando, Jameer Nelson had 21 points and Vince Carter scored 17 as Orlando broke the single-season record for 3-pointers made in a season.

Dwight Howard added 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the Magic finish with 841 from beyond the arc and the NBA's second-best record.

Marreese Speights' 23 points capped a sorry Sixers season and perhaps the last game in Eddie Jordan's tenure as coach.

## Hawks 99, Cavaliers 83

At Atlanta, Jeff Teague set career highs with 24 points and 15 assists as Atlanta cruised past a Cavaliers lineup missing

LeBron James.

The Cavs rested James and Shaquille O'Neal the night off. At the other end of the court, Joe Johnson and Jamal Crawford watched in street clothes; the Hawks played only one regular starter, Marvin Williams.

Both teams were already locked into their playoff seedings.

## Heat 94, Nets 86, 2OT

At Miami, Michael Beasley had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Mario Chalmers scored 15 points as Miami wrapped up the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets became just the fifth team in NBA history to lose 70 games in a season.

Dorell Wright and James Jones each added 11 points for Miami, which played without Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem and Jermaine O'Neal and will

## Goodell: Decision on Roethlisberger in near future



**PITTSBURGH (AP)**—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says he will decide soon whether to punish Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for his off-the-field troubles.

"I think he understands how important the personal-conduct policy is to the NFL," Goodell said while attending a dinner honoring Steelers chairman Dan Rooney on Wednesday night. "And I hope he has a better understanding of how important it is for everybody in the league."

"We'll continue to gather more information. We'll continue to have that analysis done and we'll consider

it and make a decision in the near future. We like to be thorough. We like to be sure we fully understand it. We've talked to, obviously, the player. We'll talk to the players association. I think anytime you can get more input into the various factors that are going on, the better decision you'll make."

Goodell and Roethlisberger met for several hours Tuesday in New York, one day after Roethlisberger learned he would not be charged for the alleged sexual assault of a Georgia college student.

While Roethlisberger faces no criminal charges, he remains involved in a Nevada civil suit that

## Bulls try to downplay Del Negro-Paxson spat

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—The Chicago Bulls tried to downplay last month's confrontation between coach Vinny Del Negro and vice president of basketball operations John Paxson on Wednesday night, just before they avoided the distractions to clinch a playoff berth.

In a statement released before their 98-89 win over Charlotte secured the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, general manager Gar Forman confirmed there was an "internal disagreement" that was the result of each "expressing their passion" about the well-being of players and the desire to win.

Yahoo! Sports reported Paxson grabbed Del Negro's tie and shoved him before being restrained by assistant coaches in a dispute over forward Joakim Noah's playing time after a game against Phoenix on March 30.

Noah, who was recovering from a foot injury, was having his minutes monitored. The report said Paxson was upset that Noah played too much in the game, which had become a long-running dispute with his coach.

"The event occurred in Coach

meet Boston in the first round.

Yi Jianlian scored 23 points and pulled down 15 rebounds for New Jersey.

## Wizards 98, Pacers 97

At Washington, Andray Blatche scored 26 points for the hosts in a season-ending game for a pair of lottery-bound teams.

Rookie Cedric Jackson made a 3-pointer with 1:31 to play to give the Wizards the lead, and the scoreboard didn't budge the rest of the way. Danny Granger missed a 15-footer at the buzzer that would have given the Pacers the win.

## Pistons 103, Timberwolves 98

At Minneapolis, Charlie Villanueva scored 13 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to help Detroit win on the road.

Tayshaun Prince added 20 points for the Pistons, who trailed by 16 points in the third quarter.

Corey Brewer had 27 points and Al Jefferson had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves (15-67), who lost 29 of their final 31 games of the season to equal a club record for fewest victories in a season.

## Hornets 123, Rockets 115

It and make a decision in the near future. We like to be thorough. We like to be sure we fully understand it. We've talked to, obviously, the player. We'll talk to the players association. I think anytime you can get more input into the various factors that are going on, the better decision you'll make."

Rooney, the U.S. ambassador to Ireland and longtime Steelers executive, called it "a serious matter" but had little to say about Roethlisberger. His son, team president Art Rooney II, is known to be angry about the quarterback's repeated problems.

"It's being handled properly with Art, Mike (Tomlin, the coach) and Kevin Colbert (the Steelers director of football operations)," Rooney said. "I think they're handling it very well. The commissioner, as you know, saw Ben. I don't have any more to say."

Del Negro's office, not in the locker room and not in front of the players, as some wrongly have reported," Forman said. "This disagreement, while not communicated well by either party in the heat of the moment and in the immediate aftermath of a tough loss, was a result of conflicting views, but all based on the fine balance required to ensure both the immediate and long-term success of the team and the health of its players."

ESPNChicago.com reported on Wednesday, citing an unidentified source, that it was Del Negro that initiated the physical contact in the incident. Del Negro vehemently denied that in his pregame media availability before the Bobcats game.

"That's inaccurate. That's 100 percent false," Del Negro said. "But this thing is funny because you have guys that care, guys that are competitive. It's unfortunate that it had to come out, but the most important thing is to focus on the game tonight, the players and the effort that they're putting in and all those things will take of themselves at the end of the season. Hopefully, that's not for a while."

At Houston, David West had 35 points and 10 rebounds, and rookie Darren Collison added 26 points and 11 assists to lead New Orleans.

Marcus Thornton scored 20 points for the Hornets, who won for the second time in their final 14 road games.

## Suns 100, Jazz 86

At Salt Lake City, Steve Nash had 11 assists in just three quarters, and Amare Stoudemire finished with 20 points and seven rebounds, as Phoenix earned the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

Channing Frye scored 10 of his 15 points in the second quarter and Goran Dragic added 12 points for the Suns.

The Jazz finish fifth in the West and will open the playoffs at Denver, which claimed the Northwest Division with and No. 4 seed by holding the tiebreaker over Utah.

Deron Williams led Utah with 24 points and Mehmet Okur finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

## Warriors 122, Trail Blazers 116

At Portland, Oregon, Stephen Curry scored 42 points as Golden State finished its season with victory over play-off-bound Portland.

The injury-depleted Trail Blazers finished as the No. 6 seed in the Western Conference and will face the third-seeded Phoenix in the first round. The Suns defeated the Utah Jazz 100-86.

Rookie Jeff Pendergraph led the Blazers with 23 points.

## Clippers 107, Lakers 91

At Los Angeles, Steve Blake scored 23 points as part of his first career triple-double and Chris Kaman added 22 points as the Clippers ended their season by beating the Lakers.

Blake finished with 10 rebounds and 11 assists for the Clippers, who ended with a 29-53 record to miss the post-season for the 15th time in 17 years.

Lamar Odom scored 21 points, Pau Gasol had 18 points and 17 rebounds, and Shannon Brown added 18 starting in place of Kobe Bryant.

# Rain, Red Sox fall on Twins at Target Field



**MINNEAPOLIS**  
(AP)—Rain fell on the Twins at home for the first time in 29 years as John Lackey pitched the Boston Red Sox past Minnesota 6-3 on Wednesday.

Lackey turned in a second strong start and Jeremy Hermida gave Boston room with a three-run double in the eighth inning in the second game at Target Field.

Lackey (1-0) lasted 6 2-3 innings for his first Red Sox victory, lifted early by Marco Scutaro's two singles and Dustin Pedroia's RBI double and solo home run.

## Rays 9, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, B.J. Upton homered twice and drove in four runs, and Carlos Pena hit a three-run shot as Tampa ended a dreadful homestand for Baltimore.

David Price (2-0) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings for the Rays, whose 6-3 start is the best in franchise history. Tampa Bay swept the three-game series, something it did only once on the road last year.

Miguel Tejada homered for the Orioles, who went 0-6 and were outscored 37-16 during their opening homestand against Toronto and the Rays. Baltimore has one win from nine games, its worst start since going 0-21 in 1988.

## Angels 5, Yankees 3

At New York, Joel Pineiro pitched seven impressive innings for his first win with his new team as Los Angeles showed signs of shaking their early slump, holding off New York.

Bobby Abreu and Kendry Morales each hit an RBI double off a rocky Javier Vazquez, and Los Angeles (3-6) finally got a first-rate performance on the mound after opening with its worst eight-game start since 1972.

## Royals 7, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Jose Guillen homered for the fourth straight game, connecting for his 200th career shot and leading Kansas City over Detroit.

Guillen hit his fifth home run in a four-game span. His solo drive capped a two-run seventh inning that put the Royals ahead 5-3.

Billy Butler added a pair of sacrifice flies for the Royals. Magglio Ordonez homered for the Tigers and Johnny Damon got his 1,000th career RBI.

## White Sox 11, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Carlos Quentin hit a grand slam and drove in six runs to help Chicago beat Toronto in front of the smallest crowd to attend the Blue Jays' stadium.

Only 10,610 were at Rogers Center to see the rout. With the Toronto Raptors playing across town for a spot in the NBA playoffs the city's attention was elsewhere — even though the Maple Leafs missed the NHL playoffs.

John Danks (1-0) allowed two hits and a run in seven innings and Tony Pena finished with two perfect ones. Danks struck out six and walked three.

## Rangers 6, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Colby Lewis tied a career high with 10 strikeouts and Nelson Cruz hit his American League-leading sixth

home run as Texas beat Cleveland.

The crowd of 10,071 was the lowest at Progressive Field since the ballpark opened in 1994.

Lewis (2-0) allowed two runs over 5 1-3 innings. He started in place of C.J. Wilson, who came down with food poisoning on Tuesday. Lewis made 37 pitches in the first inning, but got out of a bases-loaded jam and didn't allow a hit until the third. He gave up three hits and four walks overall.

## Mariners 4, Athletics 2

At Seattle, Milton Bradley's broken-bat, two-run single in the fifth brought Seattle level and Franklin Gutierrez's single an inning later gave the Mariners the lead for good in a win over Oakland.

Jason Vargas (1-1) pitched six innings for Seattle, following up on eight shutout innings from Doug Fister a night earlier, as the back of the rotation came through to give Seattle its first series victory of the season.

Down 2-0 in the fifth, Bradley dumped the first pitch from Oakland starter Gio Gonzalez into left field, sending his bat barrel nearly to third base. The hit scored two and Gutierrez's hit an inning later scored Adam Moore with the go-ahead run.

## Cardinals 2, Astros 1

At St. Louis, Houston lost its eighth straight game to start the season after Brad Penny and Albert Pujols combined to give the St. Louis Cardinals a win over the Astros.

New Astros manager Brad Mills held a rare, off-day optional workout

Tuesday at Busch Stadium in an effort to help players relax, but to no avail as Houston scored one or fewer runs for the fifth time.

Another loss in the series finale Thursday would match the franchise-worst 0-9 start in 1983. The Astros recovered that year, finishing 85-77.

## Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 7, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, Chris Young hit a go-ahead RBI single with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, and Justin Upton and Stephen Drew homered as Arizona edged Los Angeles.

Matt Kemp homered for the third time in four games and drove in three runs for the Dodgers in a game that took 4 hours, 57 minutes to complete. Each team used eight pitchers.

## Cubs 7, Brewers 6

At Chicago, Kosuke Fukudome and Ryan Theriot each hit two-run singles with two outs in the eighth inning as Chicago beat Milwaukee.

The Cubs prevailed even though left fielder Alfonso Soriano got lifted after more defensive lapses. Theriot had four hits, Fukudome drove in three runs and Geovany Soto hit his first homer.

## Giants 6, Pirates 0

At San Francisco, Aubrey Huff hit the first inside-the-park home run of his career and Jonathan Sanchez struck out 11 as San Francisco blanked Pittsburgh.

Huff got a helpful carom to circle the bases. Eli Whiteside hit a three-run shot later in the second inning

and Aaron Rowand homered a few innings after them.

Sanchez (1-0) matched his career best with 11 strikeouts in eight scoreless innings.

## Phillies 14, Nationals 7

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit two homers and Shane Victorino drove in a career-high five runs as Philadelphia beat Washington for its best start in 17 years.

The two-time defending National League champions are 7-1 for the first time since their pennant-winning season in 1993. A potent offense has carried the Phillies—they've averaged eight runs per game.

## Marlins 5, Reds 3

At Miami, Jorge Cantu homered, making him the first player in major league history to have at least one hit and one RBI in each of his team's first nine games, as Florida beat Cincinnati.

Cantu's mark dates to 1920, when RBIs became an official statistic.

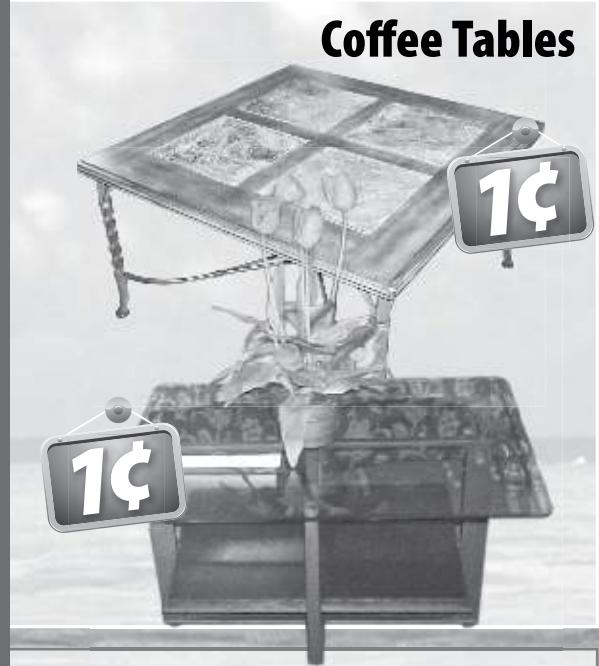
## Rockies 6, Mets 5, 10 innings

At Denver, Chris Iannetta homered to lead off the 10th, an inning after his throwing error let the New York Mets draw level with Colorado.

The Colorado catcher sent a pitch from Jenrry Mejia (0-1) into the center-field bleachers to give the Rockies their third straight win and send the Mets to their fourth loss in a row.

Jeff Francoeur and David Wright homered for the Mets.

## Chest Freezers



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Next to Subway

# Vales, Malasarte take early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roelyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

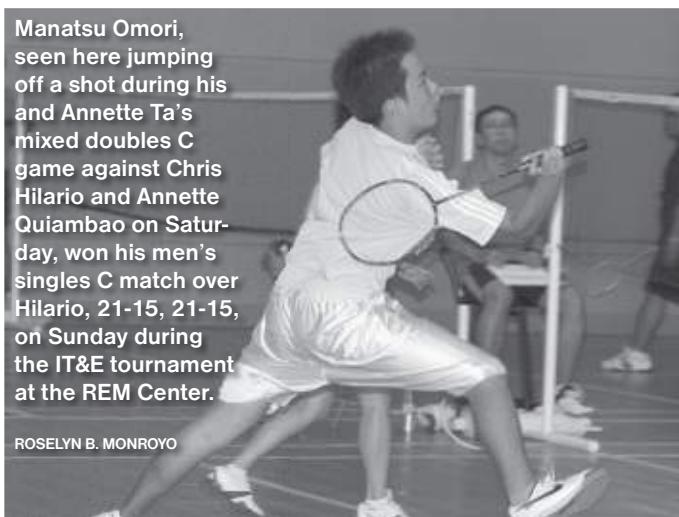


Roger Vales and Malou Malasarte are still unbeaten in the 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition to take the early lead in the mixed doubles B division after Sunday's games at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

The pair of Vales and Malasarte swept Gigi Zapanta and Ezekiel Macario, 21-13, 22-20, for a 2-0 record in the mixed doubles B division/Group A.

**Manatsu Omori,**  
seen here jumping  
off a shot during his  
and Annette Ta's  
mixed doubles C  
game against Chris  
Hilario and Annette  
Quiambao on Satur-  
day, won his men's  
singles C match over  
Hilario, 21-15, 21-15,  
or Sunday during  
the IT&E tournament  
at the REM Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



## KIWI

From Page 36

fourth in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

He saw familiar players who played against New Zealand in the pool, which coach Rufino Aguon is training for several months now in preparation for the Micro Games in Palau in August this year.

"Chemistry will not be a

problem for the team, as they played together before during the FIBA Oceania tournament," Smith added.

Players hoping for another tour of duty for the CNMI are Dan Barcenas, Peter Iguel, Keone Chariton, and Marvin Rabaulliman. Others trying out were also teammates during the 2006 Micro Games.

The CNMI Men's Nationals are hoping for a better finish in Palau after placing fifth in 2006

when Saipan hosted the Micro Games. Guam is the team to beat in Palau and the host is also a big stumbling block on CNMI's bid in the quadrennial meet.

"No team is unbeatable. I have known this through my experience in various competitions New Zealand had competed in. If you have the right players and the right system, you can't go wrong," Smith said.

As for the CNMI cagebelles, Smith said the Com-

monwealth has a very young and raw squad.

"Give them four to five years and they will blossom," said Smith, who watched the pool's training session with coach Bill Sewell on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"You can see their eagerness and interest to learn more and become good basketball players and these are the qualities you would want to see from young players," Smith added.

center field for a 4-0 lead, entering the bottom of the fifth.

The Rangers answered with four earned runs courtesy of Hector Efraim, Jesus and Juan Iguel, and Roy Celis's one RBI each and grabbed the lead, 5-4, when Pete Tomokane reached home plate on Falcons' miscues at centerfield.

The Rangers kept the lead, as they allowed the Falcons to score only one run in the last four innings. The Falcons fifth run came at the top of the sixth

with Joshua Jones hitting another grounder and bringing Jerro Jones home. In the last three innings, no Falcons runner went past second base, as the Rangers tightened up their defense.

On offense, the five-run bottom of the fifth gave the Rangers momentum, as they scored two runs each in the next two innings and added one more in the eighth inning for enough cushion against the Falcons. The Falcons dropped to a 2-5 record.

tinue its winning ways in the next tournament with the same people on its roster.

"The futsal league in the fall will be the next time we put on our yellow. We would like to thank all the sponsors who made the women's league possible, and most especially to our supporters who added to the spirit of the games," Barcenas added.

The women's league was played for nine weeks with one game each set every Tuesday and Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The league drew more than 70 female players,

Paire in the fourth game, 1-0.

Paire recovered in the fifth game with a 2-0 triumph over Independents, while the last game of the night had MP United stunning Matansa, 1-0.

At the end of the second friendly game, organizers of the women's league handed out the spring league championship trophy to Matansa.

Davis, one of the coordinators of the women's league, thanked all participants in the 11 aside event and encouraged them to join future tournaments and recruit more players.

pics" is not allowed. Hence, the Micronesian Olympics became Micronesian Games.

The Palau website also includes a brief history and cites four individuals for helping revive the Games on Saipan in 1990: Ed Manibusan, Frank Rosario, Bill Sakovich, and myself. Of course, it took many more people than that to pull it off as the whole island of Saipan responded with overwhelming support, both personal and financial. The Games are truly possible only with lots of volunteers and that's where the Micronesian spirit shined brightest.

The origin of the renewal actually took place before 1990.

In 1988 I had written a letter to then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio recommending he take the leadership role in re-establishing the event. I did that because of what I had heard when I went to Truk (now Chuuk) in 1973. People there had told me about the famous baseball gold medal where Palau defeated Truk, 1-0. If that meant so much to them even years later, then I knew that people would appreciate them again.

From that simple letter, the Micronesian Games was re-established in 1990 and has been held every four years since then.

As they say, the rest is history.

## RANGERS

From Page 36

the Miller Lite Brewers in their last match in the double round-robin regular season of the five-team league.

The Rangers extended their winning streak despite failing to score a single run in the first four innings.

Pete Teigita pitched in no relief for the Falcons and allowed the Rangers to only three hits

and gave up no runs in the first four innings.

Rangers starting pitcher Dung Tenorio did the same thing, shutting out the Falcons in the first four innings before Joshua Jones made a grounder to right field and drove Jerro Jones home for the first run of the night.

The Falcons scored two more earned runs on Robert Bansil's grounder to left field and Ned Norita's line drive to left and one run off the Rangers' error at

center field for a 4-0 lead, entering the bottom of the fifth.

The Rangers answered with four earned runs courtesy of Hector Efraim, Jesus and Juan Iguel, and Roy Celis's one RBI each and grabbed the lead, 5-4, when Pete Tomokane reached home plate on Falcons' miscues at centerfield.

The Rangers kept the lead, as they allowed the Falcons to score only one run in the last four innings. The Falcons fifth run came at the top of the sixth

## MATANSA

From Page 36

improvement throughout the season," Barcenas said.

Joining Barcenas on the team were Lynique Oveson, Emily and Melody Matson, Natalie Hill, Nicole LeBlanc, Thin-Thin Condon, Lindsay Davis, Somat Shankweiller, Noi Jumilong Horey, Con San Nicolas, Elisa Fejeran, Jhie Vallo, Prangthong Johansen, Cristy Stackpole, and Michiko and Allen Tenorio.

Matansa is hoping to con-

tinute its winning ways in the next tournament with the same people on its roster.

"The futsal league in the fall will be the next time we put on our yellow. We would like to thank all the sponsors who made the women's league possible, and most especially to our supporters who added to the spirit of the games," Barcenas added.

The women's league was played for nine weeks with one game each set every Tuesday and Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The league drew more than 70 female players,

Paire in the fourth game, 1-0.

Paire recovered in the fifth game with a 2-0 triumph over Independents, while the last game of the night had MP United stunning Matansa, 1-0.

At the end of the second friendly game, organizers of the women's league handed out the spring league championship trophy to Matansa.

Davis, one of the coordinators of the women's league, thanked all participants in the 11 aside event and encouraged them to join future tournaments and recruit more players.

## GO

From Page 36

inated the logistics with regular air service between the islands.

Interestingly, the current president of Palau, Johnson Toribiong, played in the '69 Micronesian Olympics on the Marianas baseball team and hit one of the team's three home runs. (Daniel and Juan B. Camacho also hit homers) Although a native Palauan, Toribiong was working on Saipan at the time and thus qualified for the Mariana Islands team. (The political name of Northern Mariana Islands did not come about until

1978 with the establishment of the Commonwealth)

Due to the success of the games on Saipan, TTPI officials had planned on renewing them in 1973, however for whatever reason, they never materialized. I can only speculate but I believe that if there isn't somebody who is devoted to getting something accomplished, then it won't get done and no one in the Trust Territory government pushed hard enough. It wasn't that the people didn't want them, it was more of leaders not stepping forward.

Due to proprietary rights enforced by the world Olympics organization, the word "Olym-

In the mixed AB doubles, Macoi Aguda and Marlene Peraja won their first game on Sunday, downing Saul Gar-gallo and Cheng Saturno, 21-12, 21-14, to join Rey Bulaon and Kim in the win column in Group A.

In Group B of the mixed doubles C division, Jojo Savellano and Angie Ito claimed the lead after beating Edwin Maratas and Emily Vargas, 21-14, 21-17. Ito and Savellano now hold a 2-0 record.

In the same group, Noli Santos and Anna Rose Omori recovered from their opening day loss with a 21-12, 21-18 triumph over Victor Reyes and Cristy Villaflor.

In the men's B singles, Mario Diola and Rodwealth Espana won their respective matches. Espana slipped past Cordero in three sets, 21-16, 18-21, 21-19 and Diola swept Vales, 21-15, 21-12.

In the men's C singles, Manatsu Omori downed Chris Hilario, 21-15, 21-15, while Harrell survived Kanata Omori, 27-25, 21-13.

In the women's B singles, Ito notched the lead in Group A with her 2-0 record. Ito gained her second win after beating Anna Rose Omori, 21-17, 21-10.

In the same division in Group B, Hannah Choi and Peraja prevailed over separate foes with the former winning over Kim. Peraja defeated Loida Ito, 21-19, 21-16.

and can stay on the game for several minutes.

"I believe the CNMI still has a couple of female players in the States so if they can make it to Palau, the team's chances in the tournament will be good," Smith added.

The CNMI cagebelles are the defending champions in the Micro Games after beating Palau in 2006.

## Tribune Sports Scores

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	32	.610	—
Toronto	40	42	.488	10
New York	29	53	.354	21
Philadelphia	27	55	.329	23
New Jersey	12	70	.146	38

##### Southeast Division

y-Orlando	59	23	.720	—
x-Atlanta	53	29	.646	6
x-Miami	47	35	.573	12
x-Charlotte	44	38	.537	15
Washington	26	56	.317	33

##### Central Division

z-Cleveland	61	21	.744	—
x-Milwaukee	46	36	.561	15
x-Chicago	41	41	.500	20
Indiana	32	50	.390	29
Detroit	27	55	.329	34

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

###### Southwest Division

y-Dallas	55	27	.671	—
x-San Antonio	50	32	.610	5
Houston	42	40	.512	13
Memphis	40	42	.488	15
New Orleans	37	45	.451	18

###### Northwest Division

y-Utah	53	29	.646	—



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# Shirley's back on track; TBK wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roelyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

 Shirley's Coffee Shop snapped its three-game losing skid after slipping past Pacific Islands Club, 105-99, in the second game of the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

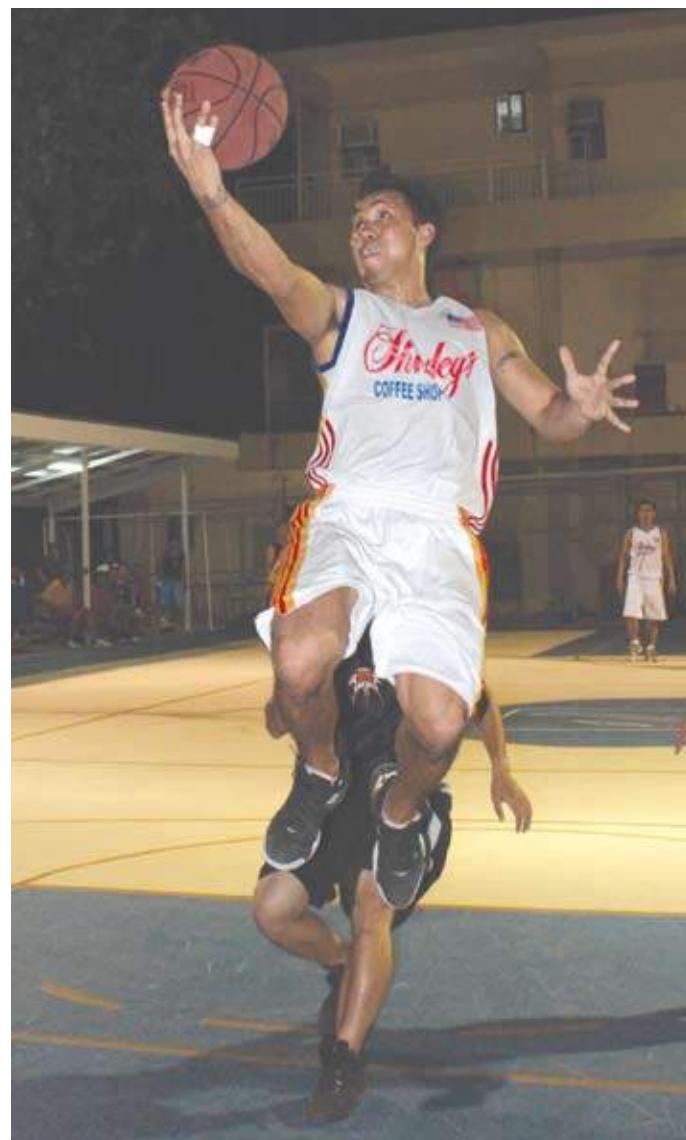
Shirley's pulled off the six-point win despite playing with only four players in the last 1:29 of the fourth quarter, improving the host's record to 5-6.

PIC, which dropped to a 6-5 mark, had a chance to steal the game when Shirley's had only William Opone, Dindo Laxa, Fradel Sedillo, and Errol Peredo on the court and led by only four, 98-94. However, instead of going to Darwin Barbo, who led the team's rally in the fourth by barreling his way inside the paint, PIC opted for long jumpers and committed crucial turnovers.

Heartim Williams and James Abuy muffed a couple of treys in the homestretch and PIC made a few passing errors, leaving the team at the short end of the stick against the depleted Shirley's crew.

Free throws from Opone, Laxa, and Sedillo and two fast-break plays from Peredo saved the day for Shirley's, which had only six players available for the game. The hosts were down to four when Junar Guiab fouled out midway in the fourth and Dindo Pablo followed suit with less than two minutes left in the game.

Peredo top-scored for Shirley's with 35 points, while



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Shirley's Errol Peredo goes for a breakaway layup during the homestretch of their game against Pacific Islands Club in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Opone added 28.

Rex Yabut paced PIC with his 26 markers, while Barbo chipped in 24, making all of them in the second half as he missed the entire first half.

In the first game, TBK Auto Care foiled Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo's bid for an upset, escaping with a 97-94 win.

TBK gained its eighth win in 12 games, while SGH/Do-

como absorbed its 10th loss after 11 matches.

SGH/Docomo gave the favored TBK a good fight all throughout the match and even led, entering the last two minutes before the latter's fastbreak plays spelled the difference in the game. SGH had a chance to send the game in overtime when it had the last possession and trailed by only three,

The first qualifier held on March 27 had sisters Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Tyrone Omar, Dennis Ngirchongor, Ryan Ichihara, Michael Mancao, Trevor Oguimoro, Jesus Iguel, Ronald Olopai, Jeneque Benavente, Lia Rangamar, Nick Gross, and Mamiko Berger meeting the Micro Games standards.

NMA will hold two more qualifiers before gathering the pool of athletes for the August meet. The third qualifier is set for April 30 and during the National Championship (May 7 to 9).

NMA reiterated that these standards are not created to exclude particular athletes interested in joining the team. The standard suggested times/records are based on results of the 2006 Micronesian Games and these are listed in the Games manual. They are made to ensure that athletes selected will

94-97, with two seconds left on the clock. However, Gerald Maliwanag missed a triple from quarter corner of the court.

Jun Pantaleon led TBK with 30 points, while Kae Bernardo added 22.

James Villacrusis exploded for 41 points in SGH/Docomo's losing cause.

## First Game

TBK 97 – Pantaleon 30, Bernardo 22, Capalad 16, Castro 15, Demapan 8, Laquian 4, Tabayan 2.

SGH/Docomo 94 – Villacrusis 41, Sablan 16, Maliwanag 14, Lee 12, Sison 8, Bustillo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-28, 47-54, 73-74, 97-94.

## Second Game

Shirley's 105 – Peredo 35, Opone 28, Pablo 14, Guiab 12, Sedillo 11, Laxa 5.

PIC 99 – Yabut 26, D. Barbo 24, Jung 18, Baculod 12, Williams 7, Baterina 4, Abuy 4, K. Barbo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-19, 48-49, 74-67, 105-99.

## VFW Naughty Boyz keeps Tuesday B lead



VFW Naughty Boyz maintained its lead in the Tuesday B division of the 2010 Winter/Spring Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

An 80-40 record after last week's games gave VFW Naughty Boyz an eight-win lead over second running Jonny's Walastic, which holds a 72-48 mark. In third place are the D' Pirates B-Destroyers (69-41), followed by D' Pirates Black Ship (49-71), Jonny's Samurai (45-75), and The Flair Get Sum (45-75).

In the Masters division, only one win is separating top-ranked Oleai Snipers and second running VFW Angry Dragons with the former having a 92-27 slate against the latter's 91-45 mark.

Others entered in the Masters division are D' Pirates Black Stallions (89-47), Tijuana M-Destroyers (66-70), Oleai D' Companeros (65-71), 10/10 670 Bulls Eye II (67-52), Naked Fish Boyz (67-69), Sande's Lucky Shots (60-76), Tijuana Red Horse (60-76), VFW Major Leak (48-88), and D' Pirates Underdog Fighters (42-94).

In the Thursday B Flame 3, the Top 3 placers are D' Pirates Pu3ska Brothers (76-44), Jonny's Trouble Shooters (70-50), and VFW No Fear (65-55).

On top of the leaderboard in the Thursday B Fanihi division are the Tijuana CK-Destroyers, who hold a 74-46 slate. Completing the Top 5 are The Flair Salut Balut (64-46), Sande's Naughty Boyz (61-44), D' Pirates Quarter Master (50-55),



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Members of VFW Naughty Boyz, from left, John Cabrera, Cedric Palacios, Ray Cabrera, Ferdie Ngermikuur, and Justin Mizutani pose for a group photo before their game in the SEDA league last week.

and VFW Dutty Gunz (42-78).

Snicker Barracuda is ahead in the C Kingfisher division with its 71-49 record, followed by sister teams D' Pirates Shootz (65-55), and D' Pirates Lucky Shots-C (63-57).

In the C Chichirika division, D' Pirates Black Pearls have the top view with its 74-37 record. Rounding out the Top 3 are VFW One Shot (67-53) and D' Pirates Sang & The Gang (63-57).

In the Ladies division, D' Pirates B-52 Shooters are comfortably ahead by 11 wins against VFW Yakau, as the former have a 77-43 against the latter's 66-54. D' Pirates Mama Snipers are third with their 58-62, while Gaia Lady Gagas hold a 39-81 for fourth place.

(Roselyn B. Monroyo)

## Micro Games athletics trials today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

 More tickets to the 2010 Micronesian Games will be at stake today as Northern Marianas Athletics holds the second qualifying tournament for the quadrennial meet in Palau.

Nine events are lined up in the second qualifier at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility: discus, 100m, 400m, 800m, 10,000m, and 4x400m relay runs, high jump, 400m hurdles, and triple jump.

Trials will start at 5pm with participants in the discus, 200m, and high jump competing first, followed by 400m hurdles (5:30pm), 800m (5:50pm), 400m (6:10), triple jump (6:15), 10,000m (6:30), and 4x400m relay (7:10). All trials will be for men and women.

Interested athletes must meet the qualifying times/marks to boost their chances represent the CNMI to the Micro Games.

Others making the grade in the second qualifier will join those 13 who passed the first trial.

The first qualifier held on March 27 had sisters Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Tyrone Omar, Dennis Ngirchongor, Ryan Ichihara, Michael Mancao, Trevor Oguimoro, Jesus Iguel, Ronald Olopai, Jeneque Benavente, Lia Rangamar, Nick Gross, and Mamiko Berger meeting the Micro Games standards.

NMA will hold two more qualifiers before gathering the pool of athletes for the August meet. The third qualifier is set for April 30 and during the National Championship (May 7 to 9).

NMA reiterated that these standards are not created to exclude particular athletes interested in joining the team. The standard suggested times/records are based on results of the 2006 Micronesian Games and these are listed in the Games manual. They are made to ensure that athletes selected will

The second qualifying tournament for the golf competition in the 2011 Pacific Games will be held tomorrow at the Kingfisher Golf Links

Check-in time is 11am, while tee time is at 12pm.

The series of qualifiers are held to select the five players who will represent the CNMI to the Pacific Games next year

in New Caledonia. All scores of participants in the series of qualifiers will be compiled to determine the Top 5 golfers with the lowest total scores.

The third qualifier is scheduled for May 24, the fourth will be played on June 19 and the last two will take place on July 19 and Aug. 21. Venues for third to sixth qualifying tournaments will be announced later.

An optional seventh qualifier will also be set to allow golfers who will miss one of the regular six trials to make up. A golfer can also use the seventh qualifier to drop his highest score in the first six qualifiers.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, Jeff Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. (PR)

## Calling all basketball coaches



With the help of Basketball New Zealand coach Kevin Smith, the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, under the direction of its president Elias Rangamar, would like to call on all interested bas-

kball coaches—young and old—to attend an important meeting for the creation of the CNMI Coaches Association.

The meeting will take place in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room tomorrow, April 17, 10am.

Several matters that will be dis-

cussed as part of BANMI's strategic development plan, including player and coaching development, instillation of a talent identification system, and a coach's accreditation scheme, as well as the foundation of national age group development squads, and unique style of game.

For more information, contact Gabriel White at 234-5647. (PR)



**Bulls reach  
playoffs after  
win over  
Bobcats**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Kiwi coach gauges CNMI players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**N**ew Zealand coach Kevin Smith got a sneak peek of CNMI players and saw some good signs which could work on the Commonwealth's advantage when competing in off-island tournaments.

Smith watched players trying out for slots on the CNMI Men's Nationals on Tuesday at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium and observed the pool's drills.

"They've been working on conditioning for three months, so I can say that the team will be very fit come the 2010 Micronesian Games," said Smith, who returned to Saipan on Monday to help the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands in its basketball development program.

Smith first came on Saipan last year when he was part of the coaching staff of the New Zealand Team that finished

*See KIWI on Page 34*



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
New Zealand coach Kevin Smith, first row fourth left, poses with the CNMI Women's Nationals training pool and coach Bill Sewell, second row right, after a training session at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Wednesday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Pete Tomokane, left, gets a hi-five from a teammate during the Rangers' first-round game against the Falcons in the 2010 Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## Rangers clinch SML pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The St. Michael Rangers are still a win away from sweeping the regular season, but had already secured the pennant in the 2010 Saipan

Major League Baseball, following a 10-5 triumph against the Falcons on Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was the Rangers' seventh in as many games and they will go for a sweep next week when they face

*See RANGERS on Page 34*

## Matansa rules women's football league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Matansa Football Club was crowned champion of the 2010 NMIFA Women 11 Aside Spring League after

finishing with the best record in the four-club competition.

Matansa completed the three-round robin league with a 6-2-1 win-draw-loss record, scoring 20 points and making 16 goals.

The Tawny Barcina-captained Matansa was ahead by eight points against



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Members of Matansa Football Club show their championship trophy during the brief awards ceremony for the 2010 NMIFA Women 11 Aside Spring League on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

## Go Micro!

Funny how a letter can change the world. Or a small part of the world anyway.

The countdown to the 7th Micronesian Games has begun. A billboard in Koror, Palau counts the days until the opening ceremony. Today it should read 106.

Palau has a website devoted to the event, found at visit-palau.com. This is their message to those who are planning to attend:

"You will travel long distances to be here and your journey

serves to remind us the importance of the Micronesian Games. True to the spirit of the 1969 Games, which laid the foundation to the creation of the Micronesian Games of what it is today. It proved that the value of sports competition foster cultural exchange and sharing of common values which serve as a mechanism to unify the islands."

In 1969, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands coordinated the Micronesian Olympics on Saipan which was the first multi-sport, multi-island competition among the island entities. Continental's Air Micronesia which had been launched a year earlier greatly facil-

*See GO on Page 34*

## OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

